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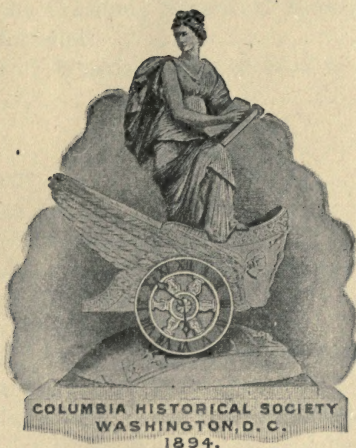
# Columbia Historical Society

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## THE MAKING OF A PLAN FOR WASHINGTON CITY.

BY GLENN BROWN, F. A. I. A.

(Read before the Columbia Historical Society, January 6, 1902.)

The original map of Washington made in 1791 was the first plan drawn for a capital city of a great nation.

Other capitals have been a growth, beginning as villages without design, or thought of future progress or greatness, and in their gradual development from village to town and their final expansion into cities have been hampered by the original lines of roadways, the gradual addition of streets and suburbs, and the location of more or less important buildings, each roadway, street, or suburb having been laid out according to individual whim, with little or no consideration for a future city that would be a harmonious whole.

Gradual growth often produced picturesqueness; never stateliness or grandeur such as would befit a capital city. The authorities of many cities, after the countries of which the city was the capital had grown in wealth and power, have attempted with more or less success to remedy this want of a harmonious and effective original plan.

Paris has undergone many of such changes, the later ones under Louis XIV., Napoleon I., Louis Philippe, and Napoleon III. The last-named Emperor at enormous expense opened new avenues and boulevards directly through the city, so as to command the view of focal points, and beautified the city with parks and works of art.

Although the effects accomplished in Paris, when viewed in connection with beautiful buildings, majestic arches, graceful columns, artistic statuary, and pleasing gardens, have been greater than similar accomplishments in other cities of the world, Paris is not what it would be if the great architects of building and landscape had been unhampered by existing conditions.

St. Petersburg was selected as the seat of the Russian Government in 1703, and was located on a site where no other city existed. Apparently little attention was given to its development on broad lines. It grew as other cities have grown, without thought of the grandeur of effect that might have been attained by a well-studied, original and comprehensive plan.

London, after the great fire in September, 1666, had an opportunity to make a complete rectification of the unhappy results unavoidable in the plan of a city developed by gradual growth. There was a determined effort made to take advantage of this opportunity. Sir Christopher Wren made a very clever and comprehensive plan, the first plan that I have been able to discover of a city with streets radiating from focal points.

The sites of prominent buildings, monuments, and columns were arranged so as to give pleasing objects of sight at the end of many vistas as well as open spaces which afforded opportunity for a closer view. Unfortunately the plan of Sir Christopher Wren was never executed. The difficulty of adjusting conflicting claims proved insurmountable.

The causes which influenced our forefathers to lay out a city on a grand and comprehensive scale are interesting topics for investigation. The data and precedent from which they evolved the noble plan presented in the map of the city of Washington are fascinating subjects for study.





A PLAN FOR REBUILDING THE CITY OF LONDON AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1666.

Designed by Sir Christopher Wrenn.





During the first fifty years of the city's history this greatness of scale and the "magnificent distances" were a constant cause of ridicule with the thoughtless, and sneers from our country and Europe at the magnificent pretensions of the original plan, were frequent on the part of persons who could not appreciate the future of the United States. The grandeur of scale, as well as the character of the scheme which was approved, clearly indicated the confidence of the projectors in the future of our country. It was evidently their judgment that the best plan on a generous scale would not be too good or too large for the future capital of the United States.

General Washington, as a surveyor, a man of rare judgment, broad common sense, and great business capacity, was well fitted to conduct the scheme, and he selected the most skilled members of the profession of architecture and landscape who could be obtained to assist in the making of the city. He cautioned his assistants against vagaries in design and insisted upon following rules and principles as laid down by the older masters in their profession.

Washington was fortunate in securing Peter Charles L'Enfant, with whose skill he was well acquainted, to design the map for the new city. Washington and L'Enfant together made a careful personal study of the ground and located the site for the principle edifices and the focal points. The first or tentative draft was made and submitted to Washington, and after modifications the final map was drawn as we have it to-day. What influenced them in the general arrangement of avenues radiating from focal points of interest? Why was the Mall planned as an approach to the Capitol and the contemplated Washington monument, with a broad and extended vista on their axis?

L'Enfant did not attempt to draw up the scheme with-

out carefully studying what had been accomplished in other parts of the world.

What were the sources from which L'Enfant drew his inspiration in designing the plan? To what influence did Washington turn when making his criticism and modifications?

We know that L'Enfant wrote, April 4, 1791, asking Jefferson, Secretary of State, to obtain maps of London, Paris, Venice, Madrid, Amsterdam, Naples, and Florence, stating that it was not his wish to copy the plan of these cities, but that he might have a variety of schemes for consideration. We know from a letter of Jefferson's, April 10, 1791, that Jefferson sent him from his personal collection maps of the following cities: Frankfort on the Main, Amsterdam, Strassburg, Paris, Orleans, Bordeaux, Lyons, Montpelier, Marseilles, Turin, and Milan. The probabilities are that Jefferson obtained for L'Enfant the other maps for which a request had been made. A comparison of the maps of the cities mentioned, as well as other cities in Europe, proves that they supplied him with only isolated suggestions for the treatment which was adopted. The maps of London and Paris previous to 1800, clearly illustrate this point.

Paris, as we know it to-day, suggests more forcibly than other cities some of the marked features of Washington, the points of similarity being the Arch of Triumph and the Places of the Nation, the Bastille, Hugo, and the Republic, from which radiate avenues and boulevards. Probably the majority of people of the present day who are familiar with Paris assume that it was there L'Enfant found the idea on which he enlarged in making his design for Washington.

Napoleon I. began and Napoleon III. completed the system of avenues leading to or radiating from points of



interest. L'Enfant's map was engraved in 1792 when the first Napoleon was an unknown man. The Paris of 1791 had nothing in the arrangement of streets which, judging from L'Enfant's design, could have appealed to him. The numerous small squares and the parked way of the Champs Elysées may have suggested and probably did suggest the many small parks as well as the treatment of the Mall, which he adopted in his plan.

The first questions which would have presented themselves to L'Enfant in undertaking the solution of the problem would naturally have been the possible number of residents who might dwell in his city of the future and the size of a city to accommodate them. London in that day had approximately 800,000 inhabitants, and Paris at the same date had approximately 600,000 people. The areas which these cities occupied have been a site for village, town, or city for nearly two thousand years. They represented the capital cities of the two most powerful countries of the world in L'Enfant's time. With these data before him he fixed the area of the new city at about 16 square miles, which would accommodate, on the basis of the population of Paris, 800,000 people.

The boldness and foresight of these city makers is to be wondered at when we remember that at this period the population of the United States was about 4,600,000.

The next item for solution was the location of the principal buildings and commemorative monuments, with a view to place them so as to enhance their effect and at the same time so that they would become the crowning features of the surrounding landscape.

The map of Paris, as well as his personal knowledge, furnished L'Enfant suggestions for the location of palatial buildings, statuary, and monuments; but with the exception of the Champs Elysées few, if any, sug-

gestions were found as to location of such objects of interest so that they could be seen, enjoyed, and so that they would produce the happiest effect in connection with their surroundings. The Mall, as the grand garden approach to the Capitol, would naturally have suggested itself from a study of the Champs Elysées and of the more beautiful garden approach to Versailles.

How far should water effects be introduced as a feature in the new plan? L'Enfant in his request for plans of Amsterdam and Venice evidently had water effects in view, and carrying out this idea he suggests on his map a treatment of wharves, arranged for open views to the broad Potomac, and introduced a canal, with water basins and fountains, which would have added wonderfully to the beauty of the city if they had been carried out. A part of the water scheme was executed in the form of a canal, but this was turned into an open sewer and eventually arched and covered.

*The most unique and distinctive feature of Washington, its numerous focal points of interest and beauty from which radiate the principal streets and avenues was not suggested by any city of Europe. Three streets converging toward a building or a square being the nearest approximation to the idea shown upon the map of any European city of that date.*

As I have mentioned before, after the great fire in London in 1666, Sir Christopher Wren made a design for the rearrangement of the streets, and for grouping the various important buildings in London. This unexecuted plan of Wren's was apparently the first to suggest the radiation of streets from focal points of interest, and in it he had several such centers. Engravings of this map were published in various histories of London in L'Enfant's day. When Jefferson asked for maps of London there can be little doubt that





# PLAN OF ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.





this design was among the number sent to Jefferson and by him given to L'Enfant.

When Louis XIV. made Versailles one of his principal residences, Le Notre, who was the director of buildings and gardens for the grand monarch, laid out the garden of Versailles, one of the most pleasing, impressive, as well as magnificent pieces of formal landscape in existence at the present day. This was designed about 1662 and completed in 1669. In this garden we have a highly developed plan showing points of interest and beauty from which radiate avenues and walks. We can not question but that L'Enfant was familiar with this piece of landscape architecture, and it, together with the suggestion of Wren, we may reasonably assume, induced L'Enfant to try the same idea in the building of a city, instead of a garden, with radiating avenues; and also influenced him in the principal and most imposing feature of the Mall.

Although Washington had never been across the ocean, he was undoubtedly the man to study the maps of existing cities, from which, as has been already shown, that he could have found but little to influence him as suggestions for the final plan of Washington City. Washington was familiar with the cities in this country, and strange as it may seem there are suggestions in two of the small cities of the United States which may have influenced him in approving and modifying the scheme submitted by L'Enfant.

Annapolis has two focal points from which several streets radiate. It is stated in the older accounts of Annapolis that the plan was copied from Sir Christopher Wren's plan of London. This is probably a fact, taking a small section of London as a basis. It is most probable that Washington was familiar with the fact.

Williamsburg, Va., had a mall, a dignified tract of

green around which imposing colonial buildings were grouped and toward which the principal streets converged. Washington was familiar with these two cities and undoubtedly appreciated the pleasing effect of their plans.

He was thus ready to appreciate and indorse a suggestion of similar treatment, multiplied by numerous additional focal points, with vistas from one to the other, with the principal buildings located at the most prominent intersections, with a mall around which was to have been grouped many of the principal edifices.

Although I have endeavored to call attention to the data to which L'Enfant could and did have access and the surroundings which may have had their influence in the formulation of a plan for the city of Washington, I do not mean in any way to detract from his fame. All great artistic achievements have been a system of evolution and growth, usually a growth of long periods of time. It is truly remarkable, and proved L'Enfant a man of genius, that he evolved in a short period, and from the meager suggestions which he must have possessed, such an excellent and artistic scheme for a new and a great city.

The design indicated a comprehensive study of the streets, so arranged as to make effective distant vistas of the buildings, columns, fountains, and arches which were proposed, as well as to give the most direct access for business or pleasure; parks so located as to enhance the buildings and other art structures and give an opportunity for pleasing views upon near approach; the grouping of buildings along the Mall so as to produce harmonious and artistic effects as well as the best service for utilitarian purposes. I beg leave to quote from my "History of the United States Capitol": (Senate Doc. No. 60, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session.)





PLAN OF WASHINGTON CITY.





The more the scheme laid out by Washingeon and L'Enfant is studied, the more forcibly it strikes one as the best. It is easy to imagine a vista through green trees and over a green sward, 400 feet wide, beginning at the Capitol and ending with the Monument, a distance of nearly a mile and a half, bounded on both sides by parks 600 feet wide, laid out by a skilled landscape architect and adorned by the work of capable artists. Looking from the center open space across the park a continuous line of beautiful buildings was to have formed the background. They were not to have been deep enough to curtail either the artistic or natural beauties of the park or to encroach upon the people's right to an air space. By this time such an avenue of green would have acquired a world-wide reputation if it had been carried out by competent landscape architects, artists, and sculptors, consulting and working in harmony with each other.

The beauties and possibilities of this plan for the Mall and grouping of buildings were apparently forgotten after the days of Madison. Some seven years ago, while studying the location of buildings in connection with my "History of the Capitol," the remarkable beauties and utilitarian features of the plan were first called forcibly to my attention. They were so attractive that I felt constrained to write an article for the *Architectural Review*,\* in Boston, on the subject, and in 1900 published another paper on the same subject urging the feasibility and desirability of reinstating this plan and building future Government buildings on the lines suggested.

At the meeting of the American Institute of Architects in this city in December, 1900, a number of prominent architects and artists were requested to read papers on the future treatment of parks and the groupings of

\* Selection of Sites for Federal Buildings in Washington. The *Architectural Review*, Boston, Mass., Vol. III., No. IV., 1894. Suggestions for the Grouping of Buildings, Monuments, and Statuary, with Landscape in Washington. The *Architectural Review*, Boston, August, 1900.

buildings. They were asked for their individual ideas. It was a surprising fact that they all accepted the fundamental scheme of L'Enfant as the best, and only enlarged upon or suggested variations in detail.\*

Last June the Senate District Committee appointed a commission, consisting of D. H. Burnham, C. F. McKim, Augustus St. Gaudens, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., among the most prominent men in their professions in the country, all of whom have proved by their work a capacity equal to the best in the world to-day. After a thorough study of the subject for six months we hear that they think a return to the plan of L'Enfant in the treatment of the Mall and the future location of Government buildings is the proper thing. The changes made in the water line and by sale of Government property and the erection of inartistic structures located at haphazard will require many modifications and skilled handling, but we may only expect a successful outcome from the commission. Let us hope that Congress will see fit to approve their suggestions and return to the fundamental scheme as laid down by Washington and L'Enfant. When executed there will be no city in the world to equal Washington in its beauty and artistic results.

\*Papers Relating to the Improvement of the City of Washington. Read before the American Institute of Architects December, 1900. Compiled by Glenn Brown, Secretary American Institute of Architects. Government Printing Office, 1901.



# THE MAKING OF A PLAN FOR THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

By CHARLES MOORE.

(Read before the Society January 6, 1902.)

Albert Gallatin, writing from Washington in 1801, expressed the optimistic opinion that the portion of the Federal City near the President's house might, in a short time, form a town equal in size and population to Lancaster or Annapolis, a prediction based mainly on the proximity of the locality in question to the well-established tobacco port of Georgetown. Mr. Thomas Twining, an English traveler who visited the site of the capital city in 1795, thought that Georgetown must share the advantages of Washington, but be independent of its failure. If Twining and Gallatin could revisit the national capital and stand on one of the antiquated bridges that span Rock Creek, they would look down into the deep ravine and see nearly the same conditions that met their gaze when first their eyes beheld that thread of water twisting between steep banks overgrown with trees. Officially the name of Georgetown is obsolete; but not until that portion of the Rock Creek Valley which lies between the ancient town and the modern city shall have been developed into a parkway will the line of demarcation be obliterated and Georgetown become in fact, as it is now in theory, a part of Washington.

Certain Georgetown families still keep alive traditions of the days before the seat of government was removed to the banks of the Potomac; and upon proper introduction one may be permitted to gaze on priceless miniatures

of the piquant Martha Custis, together with many of the household belongings of the Father of his Country, relics cherished by persons who have the right to refer to those illustrious personages by the titles of intimate relationship. These families have ever held aloof from transitory Washington society as quite beneath consideration on the part of those whose title-deeds run back in direct line to royal grants. On the other hand, in Washington itself, of late years, several social circles have developed quite independently of Presidents, cabinet ministers, and senators. With a few notable exceptions, the great houses of Washington are occupied by those who have no direct connection with the government; and high officials are welcome guests at these houses, not so much because of their position as because they also are in pursuit of social pleasures.

Then, too, Washington has a winter population numbering thousands of persons drawn thither from all parts of the country by the comparative mildness of the climate, and the fact that it is the only city in the country where a man may have an interest in what is going on without being himself actively engaged in any pursuit. The debates in Congress, questions of foreign and domestic policy and the like, furnish subjects for conversation at the round of official receptions which occupy the first four afternoons of each week, and which any respectable person is privileged to attend; so that the sojourner at the capital is sure to make acquaintances at the homes of the representatives of his State, and speedily one's social circle may be enlarged as inclination and length of purse may dictate. Also, there are the retired army and navy officers who regard Washington as the home of their declining years; and the scientific people, a greater body numerically than is to be found in any other city, at least in this country; and the



thousands whom public business or pleasure calls to the capital for a few days or weeks at a time. So that Washington has become the representative American city; and any improvements which Congress may undertake in the District of Columbia will be made not alone for the benefit of the comparatively few permanent residents, but for the much greater number of American citizens who have a just pride in seeing that the capital of the United States is made worthy of the advancing power and taste of the people.

Primarily, however, the District of Columbia was created for the seat of government of the United States. The city of Washington, its public buildings, its parks and driveways, its great library, even its municipal government, all are maintained to serve the purposes of the national legislature and of those portions of the executive and judicial branches of the government which must be located at the capital.

Of late a theory has been put forth that the federal government simply finds a local habitation in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, and that there is a reciprocal relation between the government on the one hand and the municipality on the other. This view has support neither in the Constitution nor in history. Indeed, the capital was removed from New York and Philadelphia for the very purpose of giving to Congress exclusive jurisdiction over any territory which might be selected as the seat of government; and neither Washington nor Jefferson, L'Enfant nor Ellicott, ever had even a suspicion that they were not planning a city which in all its features should be the expression of the stability, the dignity, the taste, and the wealth of the government of the people of the United States. So that while the District of Columbia may offer attractions to private citizens, or opportunities to business and pro-

fessional men, the District is, first of all, the abiding-place of the highest representatives of the people, and its development should be prosecuted in accordance with this fact.

The work of improvement is by no means a new enterprise. For years Congress has been laying the foundations. Those very necessary measures of civic house-keeping, a perfect sewer system and an adequate supply of pure water, are rapidly nearing completion; and lands have been either purchased or reclaimed for all the larger parks, so that what now remains to be done is to develop areas already possessed, and to make suitable connections among them. The city that L'Enfant planned has outgrown its boundaries, and now the task is to extend to the entire District of Columbia as comprehensive and as well-considered treatment as he gave to the forests and plains with which he was called to deal.

Leading from the Lincoln memorial site, at the western end of the Monument grounds, the improvement plans contemplate a roadway skirting the Potomac and carried on a higher level than the wharves, so that one may look down on the busy and interesting scene of commercial activity. On reaching Rock Creek, the driveway turns up the valley and skirts the stream, while the street-cars and the general traffic continue to be carried on bridges spanning the narrow ravine, and the great thoroughfares of Massachusetts and Connecticut avenues cross the valley on stone viaducts already in process of construction. Two miles of parkway bring one to the Zoölogical Park, a well-developed tract of one hundred and seventy acres, where the Smithsonian Institution aims to preserve specimens of those animals which advancing civilization threatens with destruction. Adjoining the Zoö-



logical Park is the Rock Creek Park, throughout the length of which a single road winds along one bank of the stream to the boundary of the District. Across the park run a few country roads; and on its wooded knolls stand a few ancient stone houses, among them the Klinge place, one of the owners of which, on his wedding-night, returned to town on an errand, and, within sight of the lights and hearing of the voices of the merry-makers, was drowned in the torrent into which a sudden storm had turned the creek. Tumbling over boulders, darting around corners, spreading itself over shallows, Rock Creek is a picturesque stream; and no matter how thickly populated the District may become, Congress has provided for isolation and quiet within the long, cool valley.

The region between Rock Creek and the northwestern line of the District has so many natural beauties that the Commission found difficulty in restraining their desires to acquire a very considerable portion of it for park purposes. Washington, following the rule with cities, is growing most rapidly toward the northwest; and already the pick and shovel of the real-estate speculator are at work tearing down wooded hills to fill picturesque valleys, after a fashion that called forth the vehement protest of Cicero against those who, in his day, were making monotonous the surroundings of Rome.

A permanent system of highways, approved by Congress, regulates the subdivision of lands in the District, and the engineers have paid more or less attention to topography in their plans for this section, but for the most part the only possible recourse is immediately to acquire those ravines and heights which will afford the most desirable park connections, and leave to government or other public institutions and to seekers for villa sites the preservation of a few from among the multitude of natural beauties.

Already the ample grounds of the long-established Georgetown University command the Potomac and the Virginia hills; and farther to the north gleam the white buildings of the Naval Observatory, standing in a circle encompassed by Massachusetts Avenue. The observatory, one of the most satisfactory of Richard M. Hunt's creations, can be seen for miles across the District, affording a fine example to be followed in future building. The newly established Bureau of Standards (by means of which the United States purposes to create a set of standards that will make the manufacturers of this country independent of Germany and England) has acquired a fine site in the northwest section, where are also located the Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, which includes the Phoebe A. Hearst School for girls; and the American University, for which the Methodists have already gathered several millions of dollars. Here, too, the District has placed a high-service reservoir on the beautiful and commanding site of Old Fort Reno, one of a chain of fortifications that protected Washington during the Civil War.

When the highway system was laid out all of these abandoned forts were connected by streets; and the Park Commission advise that the grass-grown earthworks be brought into the park system, because the same reasons that made them available for fortifications, now make them desirable for small parks. One of them, Fort Stevens, possesses a unique interest. On July 10, 1864, General Jubal Early, with Ewell's corps of Lee's army, suddenly appeared at Rockville, ten miles from the District of Columbia, and the next morning marched down the Seventh street pike to capture the capital. At Fort Stevens Early was met by the Sixth Corps, which had been detached from Grant's army and sent up the Potomac for the protection of Washington. Surprised and



baffled by finding a veteran body of men where he had reasonably hoped to encounter only department clerks and the remnants of regiments left in Washington, Early was himself attacked, and in the hot engagement that followed, one of the coolest and keenest observers who stood on the parapet of Fort Stevens, amid whistling bullets and screeching shells, was Abraham Lincoln. When a surgeon standing by the President's side was wounded by a Minié ball, General Wright ordered Lincoln down. The President reluctantly obeyed the order; but nevertheless he would persist in climbing up again and again to have a look at a real battle.

Along the eastern side of Rock Creek Park extends Sixteenth street, running in a mathematically straight line from the White House to the District boundary. Where the street surmounts the hill, a mile and a half from the President's house, is a superb site for a great memorial arch or column, whence the beholder may command the entire panorama of the city, dominated by the graceful dome of the Capitol and the serene shaft of the Monument, and having for a background the long silver band of the river and the purple hills of Virginia. The beauty of the scene is marred to a degree by the restless roof of the State, War, and Navy Building, and by the impertinent tower of the city post-office, as insistent as a spoiled child; both architectural warnings for future guidance.

Near the northern boundary of the Zoölogical Park, the Piney Branch falls into Rock Creek; and not only is the wild valley of the tiny tributary highly picturesque, but also in its westerly course it cuts across both the great thoroughfares of Sixteenth and Fourteenth streets, and thus it is fitted by nature to form in part the parkway to the Soldiers' Home. Where Piney

Branch Valley rises to the level of the plain is a tract of thirty acres recently purchased as the site for a group of municipal hospital buildings; and by a suitable arrangement these proposed structures may be brought into reciprocal relations with the new building to be erected at the Soldiers' Home, so that by widening the connecting avenue a fine parkway may be completed between the parks on the axis of the White House and those on the axis of the Capitol.

The grounds of the Soldiers' Home, now five hundred acres in extent, are highly developed in an informal manner, with borders of forest and great central meadows, through which flows a small stream that forms ponds and miniature cascades. The white stone buildings on higher land at the northern end of the grounds command an extensive view of the city. For years the Soldiers' Home was the only driving-park in the District, as it is now the only one of any considerable extent. The original purchase was made in 1853, with the proceeds of the indemnity that General Scott exacted from Mexico for the benefit of the soldiers of the United States army. During the Civil War Lincoln often used the quarters of one of the officers as a refuge from the cares and worries of the White House, and on hot summer evenings he found strength in the cool of the hills and serenity in the wide prospect. To-day the grounds are the favorite drive alike of Washingtonians and of visitors, while the blue-coated soldier inmates of the Home willingly share with the black-gowned students of the neighboring Catholic University of America the enjoyment of well-shaded walks and wide stretches of meadow.

From the Soldiers' Home westward the parkway extends to the high wooded hill adjoining the extensive grounds of the Columbia Institution, a national college



for the higher education of the deaf and dumb; thence it continues until it strikes the Anacostia or Eastern Branch of the Potomac, including in its course one or two tree-topped elevations that should be acquired for breathing-spaces, in anticipation of the not distant day when the growth of population will lead to the occupation of the entire District.

There was a time when the town of Bladensburg, at the head of navigation on the Anacostia, disputed with Georgetown and Baltimore for preëminence as a shipping-port of tobacco. In 1755 a portion of Braddock's army was quartered on its people, and thence marched to death on the banks of the Monongahela. There, too, was the famous dueling-ground which claimed Commodore Decatur among its victims. And in Bladensburg streets was fought a disastrous battle of the War of 1812, after which the British marched unopposed to burn the Capitol and the President's house. For General Ross, who committed the vandalism of destroying the public buildings of a nation, a place in Westminster Abbey was prepared, and his family were permitted to add to their titles that of Ross of Bladensburg.

It is many decades since the meanest wood-scow went up with the tide to the wharves of Bladensburg; and of late years the sewage-polluted flats of the Anacostia have been a menace to the health of the people of Washington, seriously retarding the growth of a large portion of the District. Subjected to the miasmal emanations from these vast stretches of tide-washed mud are more than two thousand insane persons confined at St. Elizabeth's, besides the prisoners in the jail and the workhouse, the poor in the almshouse, the sick in the city hospital, hundreds of workers in the great gun-shops at the navy-yard, and the marines in

barracks—a striking example of the cruelty of governmental neglect.

The new plans contemplate dredging these flats to create within the area a water park with encircling driveways and wooded islands. Some six hundred acres will thus be changed into a place for boating and swimming in summer and skating in winter; and, as a result, sports now indulged in but sparingly for lack of opportunity will be encouraged. In recent years the object seems to have been to push the river away from the city, and to deny to the people most enjoyable forms of recreation. A change in this particular cannot come too soon; and those who are familiar with the large use that Londoners make of the narrow Thames will appreciate how welcome to the people of Washington must be any line of improvement that shall utilize the lavish pleasure resources of the Potomac.

Where the Anacostia unites with the Potomac are the old arsenal-grounds, long occupied as an artillery post, but recently set apart by the Secretary of War for the higher instruction of the officers of the corps of engineers. Within the next few years it is proposed to rebuild the post and to add a war college, where the officers of the United States army shall receive the highest possible training in all subjects pertaining to their profession. When this work is completed the place will become a great military park, with ample parade-grounds flanked by tasteful quarters for the officers, barracks for the enlisted men of the engineer corps, and halls of instruction, the whole surrounded by a riverside drive connected with the boulevard coming from Anacostia Park.

Directly opposite the arsenal-grounds a long, low island separates the Washington channel of the Potomac from the main or Georgetown channel. The en-



gineers have created this island out of the shoals and bars on the river-bottom, and have planted willows along the water's edge. Although the work of sucking up river-sand to enlarge the reclaimed area is still in progress, all that is necessary to turn the island into a most attractive park is a dike to keep back possible floods, a roadway on the raised land, and informal planting of the rich alluvial lands of the central space. The almost immediate effect of such treatment will be a pleasure-ground that will rival in beauty and availability the famous Margarethen Island at Budapest.

By a recent decision of the Supreme Court the title to the wharf property of Washington has been decided to be in the United States as the riparian owner; and when the courts shall have determined the value of the improvements thereon, the District will enter into possession of the property. This will afford an opportunity to rebuild the wharves as permanent structures of stone, with a terraced roadway carried on masonry arches to form the connecting parkway between the proposed war college and the Monument grounds, thus completing the inner circle of park connections, and forming a continuous drive around the city.

No park system for the District of Columbia would be complete that did not include ample driveways up the Potomac, not only to the District boundary, but even to the Great Falls, sixteen miles above the city, whence comes the water-supply. A well-constructed roadway covers the conduit through which the water for the city flows; and in one place, where a deep ravine is crossed, a stone arch with a span equal to the height of Bunker Hill Monument has been constructed—the longest single span as yet built of masonry. The river for miles is narrowed between high wooded banks, whose sky-lines are as wild as they were when Captain

John Smith gazed upon them. To add to the picturesque, a half-used canal creeps along the river's edge, its frequent locks, with the whitewashed buildings for the keepers, giving a quaint flavor to the prospect. Down the Potomac, on the Virginia side, it has been proposed to build a roadway to Mount Vernon, and in time, doubtless, this project also will be carried out. The plans already laid out, however, will provide work enough to employ the attention of Congress for many years to come.

The expense of almost all the improvements mentioned in this paper will be borne by the District of Columbia, and the money will be appropriated according to the Organic Act of 1878 providing a permanent form of government for the District. That is to say, one half of the amounts appropriated by Congress will be paid from the revenues of the District, which are raised by the taxation of the real and personal property (including franchises) within the District, and the other half will be paid from the Treasury of the United States, such division having been found to be the most equitable method of providing for the expenses of the seat of government. Moreover, the projects are so arranged that the appropriations for them can be made from year to year, as the District finances may warrant and as population increases; and the increase in land valuations consequent on the improvements should provide for the additional expense by larger revenues from taxation.

There is no question that the moneys appropriated will be expended honestly and efficiently, because it is beyond question that the government of the District of Columbia is conducted with entire honesty, with a very high degree of intelligence, and without political partisanship. This result is not reached, as most writers on the subject have assumed, because of the denial of



suffrage to the citizens of the District, thus making a paradox in a republican government. The true explanation is to be found in the fact that under the express provisions of the Constitution the nation's capital is governed by the citizens of the United States, who choose its aldermen and the members of its legislature when they elect senators and representatives; and that Congress deals with the District of Columbia in an enlightened spirit, and with an understanding that comes of familiarity with large affairs.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF A WASHINGTON NEWS-PAPER CORRESPONDENT.

By FRANCIS A. RICHARDSON.

(Read before the Society February 10, 1902.)

I came to Washington in 1865, a little before the meeting of the first session of the Thirty-ninth Congress. The Congressional Directory for that session contained the names of just twenty-six Washington correspondents, of whom I was one. I have found no authentic list of Washington correspondents prior to the beginning of the Civil War, but take it for granted there could not have been nearly so many before that period. The war, with its tremendous opportunities for news and comment at the capital of the country, must have drawn writers to this city, and it seems strange such a limited number was capable of dealing with the vast public questions centering here. Those were, however, the halcyon days for Washington correspondents. Almost or quite every one of them wrote for from three to half a dozen or more newspapers, making incomes ranging from ten thousand to twenty thousand dollars per annum. I have been told during the Civil War that Washington correspondents, which would be quite feasible with such a small body, constituted a kind of close corporation, and in association with various members of Congress profited by their early knowledge of legislation affecting the taxes, to make speculative ventures which brought them large gains. Something on the line I should suppose of the dealings indulged in in sugar stocks by certain distinguished senators when the Wil-



son-Gorman tariff was under consideration a few years back. Unfortunately for me, perhaps I might say, the war was over and the great chances in this line were gone when I joined the corps. For a decade or more after 1865 the number of Washington correspondents did not increase materially, and those who were here continued to retain connection with three, four or more different newspapers, as the case might be. Telegraphic correspondence, now so universal, was the practice in only a limited degree until the Civil War. The news now-a-days won't keep a minute. As soon as obtained it must instantaneously be put upon the wires. Woe to the correspondent of 1902 who undertakes to hold back a good thing. The chances are a hundred to one if he does, that one or several of his rivals may get hold of it and score the beat which he hoped to make. In the antebellum days the chances were all the other way. Competition in news was scarcely known, and he could safely delay his communication and trust it at his leisure and convenience to the mail. In those days the correspondents took little if any account of the Washington newspapers. These publications were mostly mere party organs, edited to be sure with distinguished ability, but paying only indifferent attention to the news. An exception might be made in the case of the *Evening Star*. But the *Star's* appearance on the newspaper horizon was then of comparatively recent date, and it twinkled feebly as compared with its refulgence of to-day. The people of Washington and the public men depended almost entirely for news on the Baltimore papers. The Philadelphia papers did not come here at all, and the New York papers were not received before nightfall. The Baltimore *Sun* maintained three correspondents at Washington, a larger number than was employed by any other newspaper, and I think to this day the Baltimore *Sun*

has as many, if not more special correspondents here regularly than any other newspaper in the country. One reason for this, of course, is that the *Sun* gives an attention to the local news of Washington which other outside papers do not, and it still has a large local circulation in the District of Columbia. It is related of Mr. Gales, one of the proprietors of the *National Intelligencer*, that, being met on the street one morning in 1860 by a friend and asked what was the news, he replied: "I don't know; I have not yet read the *Baltimore Sun*." To-day no Washington newspaper proprietor would or could make such a remark as this, for the journals of this city are abreast with the foremost in any section of the land in every department of newspaper work and enterprise, and are a credit to the capital of the nation. Like newspapers everywhere they have responded heartily to the spirit and progress of the age. Really there is no more striking illustration of the tremendous advance of our glorious and beloved country than the almost incredible development of the newspaper field since the era of our domestic conflict. It covers now every feature of the commercial, financial, political, social, literary and scientific life of the times. Practically it was not until after reconstruction had been established and the reconciliation of the sections inaugurated that the United States began that series of leaps and bounds which has made us second to no country in the world in wealth, in power, in prestige. Side by side with every other interest have the newspapers stepped in this triumphant march. The Washington correspondents have played no unimportant part in this splendid advancement. Indeed it may be said that there are few departments of newspaper work which weigh more than Washington correspondence, and the men who labor in this field constitute a not inconsiderable fraction of the flower of

journalism. In the thirty-five years I was an active Washington correspondent, among my professional associates have been those who averaged well in intelligence, in culture, in character, in sagacity with most of the men in public life with whom they came in contact.

Permit me to name only one, a man who came out of the Civil War with a record to be proud of. In his hand—rare! rare!—the sword and pen are equally mighty. His incisive style, his cutting to the marrow of every subject he touched, made him famous. Respecting and admiring his intellectual ability we all love him, because in his every act he exemplifies the highest type of manhood, my dear friend of more than a third of a century, Henry V. Boynton.

I have no doubt you have heard of Washington correspondents putting into intelligible and grammatical English the utterances of men who considered themselves shining lights in the Senate and in the House. This is literally true. I do not say that any of these statesmen are now in Congress. You may, if you wish, guess as to that. Thirty years ago it was common custom for public men of the highest rank to visit the newspaper offices. In old Newspaper Row as it used to exist there might be found any evening senators, representatives, cabinet ministers, now and then the vice-president, foreign ministers, prominent Federal officials from the large cities of the country, governors of states, etc. In the phrase then common among Washington correspondents, every one of them had his own senator, representative or cabinet member who came to his office and told him the news. All confidences of public men were regarded as inviolate, and I can recall no incident of consequence where it was ever betrayed. To the contrary, the correspondents have faced the formal displeasure of



the Senate and of the House rather than give up the name of their informant. In 1871 two correspondents of the New York *Tribune* submitted to an imprisonment of days rather than divulge the name of the senator who had furnished them with a certain secret treaty. Had they acted otherwise, as one of them said while standing in custody at the bar of the Senate, they would have been deemed ignominious by their associates and suffered ostracism at their hands. It may be remarked in this connection that nine-tenths of what is regarded as confidential information pertaining to the proceedings of the Senate and of the House is, and always has been, communicated to the correspondents by members of Congress themselves, and not by their clerks or other employees. It is the not ingenuous custom for Congressmen, when their colleagues make too much commotion over these matters, to put all the blame upon the poor clerks. Some ten years ago my warm personal friend, James Rankin Young, who now worthily fills a seat in the House of Representatives from one of the Philadelphia districts, was dispossessed of his position as executive clerk of the Senate on the charge of giving out proceedings of the executive session. While this injustice was being perpetrated the senators who had communicated the information complained of sat silent in their seats.

I don't know how many, but quite a respectable number of Washington correspondents have left here to enter, if not upon a more ennobled career, upon one promising more favorable prospects for the accumulation of money, that besetting and paramount ambition of the American mind. They have become interested in great railroad or other industrial enterprises. I think some of them have had the happy luck to get into trusts. Others have become proprietors of leading newspapers. But wherever they have gone the experience, the infor-

mation, the acquaintance they have acquired here have been of value to them. A Washington correspondent of any length of service is not apt to go into any part of the land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, where he will not meet men of prominence personally known to him. Attending national conventions, he is brought in contact with scores of men from every state in the Union, and in Congress it is the same thing, particularly in the House, where constantly so many new members are coming in. Then men of affairs and repute are always here looking after legislation, or for recreation and diversion, and among the first men they wish to meet are representatives of the press. I feel I am making a modest computation in saying the men of note, in private and public life, whose homes dot the face of the land from ocean to ocean, whom I have met from time to time, number at least five thousand. Naturally many of these, like all good men, have gone to Heaven, but from Portland, Maine, to Portland, Oregon, or Washington to Key West and New Orleans, I go nowhere that I do not meet some one to whom I can say "How-do?" and hear the reply, "I am glad to see you."

There have been striking instances of men of brilliant reputation in arms, in politics and what may purely be styled literature, proving signal failures as Washington correspondents. I have in memory several, one of whom was a general in the United States army, and two of whom were United States senators. They had ability enough, to be sure; they were finished writers, but they lacked those indispensable attributes which go to make up the successful newspaper man. "Poeta nascitur non fit," true when first uttered so many centuries ago, is as true to-day. So with the practiced, the accomplished, the capable journalist, whether Washington correspondent or not. He must be born, he cannot be made. With-

out question the qualities necessary to constitute the successful manager or writer for the daily press may be enhanced and perfected by application and experience, but the foundation must be there. One evidence of this is in the millions thrown away for themselves or their friends by men, who, simply because they could write, imagined they could run a newspaper. More money has been spent in the vain attempt to build up newspapers in this country than most probably in any other branch of industry. In the way of business there can be nothing more lovely and beautiful than a great and prosperous newspaper, nor can there be anything more brain-racking and soul-harrowing than one which does not pay.

As I have remarked when I began Washington correspondence there were twenty-six of us. When I retired on June first last there were in the Congressional directory the names of nearly two hundred. This list embraces only those who are known as regular telegraphic correspondents. It does not include the multitude of space writers and letter writers, numbering perhaps as many more. What an army, and how it shows the prodigious growth in Washington correspondence. There are exceptions, but as a rule, the correspondents of this day are connected with only one paper. Nevertheless, they are compelled to work as hard as the men of thirty and forty years ago. The fierce and terrible competition now existing between the newspapers takes Washington very much into its scope, and the correspondent never knows, morning or evening, when his work is done. He is expected to accomplish all sorts of impossible things by men who sit comfortably at desks in the home offices and have not the faintest conception of the difficulties which he encounters. No longer do senators, representatives and cabinet members come to the



newspaper offices. The correspondent must go after them. When he finds them he not infrequently discovers, as he anticipated, that the home-office man can't get the moon. It would not do for me to give away newspaper secrets, but if you could hear the character of some of the questions for which these home-office men expect the correspondents to obtain answers, you would be absolutely incredulous. Washington correspondence includes now an illimitable variety of topics. The space regularly allotted to it is ten times as much as it was thirty or even twenty years ago. The associates I have so lately and so regretfully parted business company with, speaking daily to an audience of scores of millions, exert an influence and effect not to be estimated. Journalists coming here from the capitals of Europe are stunned and amazed to learn of the immense number of correspondents which the papers of the United States maintain in this capital. Where we have fifties they have scarcely tens. I think their average of compensation is considerably lower than ours, except in the case of the principal correspondents which the great newspapers keep at their own and other capitals. These men are well paid, receiving not only handsome salaries but a liberal allowance for entertaining, which they do in style. At London, at Paris, at Berlin and at Vienna it is as it used to be in Washington. Officials high in the executive and legislative departments of the government, pay personal visits to the offices or homes of the correspondents for the purpose of discussing government affairs with them. In St. Petersburg there is no legislature, but cabinet ministers and foreign ambassadors talk with much freedom to the correspondents.

Interviewing originated with a Washington correspondent, the late Mr. J. B. McCullagh, who at the time of his death was the editor-in-chief and one of the pro-

prietors of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. I well remember the sensation created when President Andrew Johnson, early in the period of his stern and bitter contest with Congress, talked in the first person through Mr. McCullagh in the newspapers. It is true claims have been made for others as being entitled to credit for the authorship of interviewing, but Mr. McCullagh unquestionably antedated them all. The example set by the President of the United States excited not only sensation but strong criticism. It was not long, however, before his example was rapidly and widely followed, and interviewing became what it is to-day, one of the leading features of journalism in this country. It prevails only to a limited degree in Europe, but this may be largely accounted for from the fact that men over there, especially in England, generally prefer to tell what they know on the floor of legislative bodies, in the lecture halls or on the stump. General Grant, who succeeded Andrew Johnson, was not averse to the interview. My friend, Mr. De B. Randolph Keim, then one of the most prominent of Washington correspondents, was thought highly of by Grant, and could always get him to talk. Keim had no trouble in finding a market for these interviews, and it makes my mouth water to think of the ducats he raked in in consequence. After Grant no President up to the present time has been much enamored of the interviewing process, and presidential utterances for the newspapers have been few and far between. As Mr. McCullagh was the author of interviewing, so the late Benjamin F. Butler was the author of interviewing one's self. He was never willing for a newspaper man to take down what he said. When applied to, if agreeable, he would say: "I will send you something prepared just as I wish it." We may not all of us be extravagant admirers of some of General Butler's pecu-

liarities, but we all know he was among the most brilliant and clever men who have ever shone in American politics, and incapable of any expression devoid of spice and meat. Therefore, the interviewer was delighted that he preferred to write out his own opinions. You will not be surprised that a great many members of Congress and a great many others speedily "got on" to General Butler's idea. Many of them don't wait for the asking, but send in lengthy self-prepared opinions, which it sometimes happens have much more consequence in their own eyes than in those of others. If General Butler were living to-day and in full possession of his faculties, he could make vastly more money than he ever received as a member of Congress by selling his opinions to the newspapers. Practically all the men of his standard of intellect who are or who have been in public life are doing this now. An ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, who was called a tyrant, and whose tongue is perhaps as biting as was that of General Butler, is said to be averaging a hundred dollars a week, by simply interviewing himself for one or two newspapers. He remarked not long ago it would have been big money in his pocket if he had known more when he first came to Washington. "Then," he said, "I used to talk to every newspaper man who came after me." After awhile he found his views had a financial value, and then, as he put it, "instead of letting the newspaper correspondents make the money, I make it myself."

Of recent years there has been a notable change as to what was formerly one of the leading divisions of news from Washington. I mean the debates of Congress. Although what is styled the regular report of the proceedings of the two houses has always been looked after by the Associated Press, the "specials" were almost as constant in their attendance in the press galleries as the



Associated Press reporters. They supplemented the Associated Press reports with picturesque delineations of scene, manner and circumstance, and with comment, favorable or adverse, according to their own bias, or that of the journals they represented. The newspapers in all the large cities had descriptions of this character daily. Gradually this has gone out of vogue, until, unless on very exceptional occasions, the special correspondents pay but little attention to the debates, and the press galleries as a rule are comparatively bare of occupants. The Associated Press still keeps up its formal reports, but it is a perfunctory performance, and the reports when received by the newspapers are thrown into the waste basket or emasculated so as to make them unrecognizable. It is somewhat difficult to explain this. Perhaps the newspapers have discovered the public has no longer the time nor the inclination to bother with what their national legislators are saying, but wishes to know only what they actually do in their official capacity. Again, Washington has become so fruitful in gossip and scandal, and intrigue, political and otherwise, that in contrast the ordinary debates can but prove exceeding dry reading. The gentlemen who declaim at the different ends of the Capitol are much aggrieved over this. I do not see how they can remedy it. The eminent senator from Massachusetts, Mr. Hoar, early in this session poured forth a tearful lament, and sympathetic groans came from all sides of the Senate chamber. He thought the way to get the debates before the people would be in a largely increased dissemination of the *Congressional Record*. Another senator a few days since brought in a motion looking to this end. That may be the best solution of the difficulty, yet although they may send the *Record* to the people they cannot make them read it, and I do not believe they will pay for it.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity for fine writing from Washington is afforded upon inauguration occasions. What is called the descriptive part of an inauguration did not figure much in the old time, probably a column or two only. Now the descriptive part much excels in space all the routine of the ceremony, including the inaugural address. The newspapers make their preparations days and weeks in advance. The Washington Bureaus are reinforced by large details from the home offices. The chief of the Bureau maps out his plan of campaign as a military commander forms his lines for battle. He assigns every man under him to an especial division of the great pageant from its beginning to its end, so that one or the other of his details is at work without intermission from an early hour in the morning of the fourth of March until past midnight. Thus one man is assigned to the White House, or it may be two or three, one to look after the President-elect and one after the Vice-President-elect; one, two or more to the parade, one or more to the reviewing stand in front of the White House, one to the Senate chamber, where the President and the President-elect view the swearing in of the Vice-President; one to the stand in front of the capitol where the President delivers his inaugural, and one—most generally a woman—to the inaugural ball. In addition to all this there are scouts who go hither and thither, and pick up whatever they can in the line of incidents on the streets or elsewhere. This, mind you, is all in addition to the “routine” furnished by the Associated Press and what is styled the “advance” matter, which can always be gotten up two or three days ahead for extensive ceremonials. The Associated Press “routine” includes the addresses of the President and Vice-President, the regular proceedings in the Senate, the organization and route of the pro-

cession and various other details. The Associated Press, in fact, furnishes a complete account of the whole affair, and the papers can use as much or as little of it as suits them. The Washington city papers manage their reports in the same way. Thus you see how you can read, almost while it is going on, vivid and elaborate accounts of this memorable ceremony, occupying not columns, but pages.

As said, the inaugural ball in newspaper parlance is "done" by a woman. Women now in journalism, as in every other business occupation, are treading on the toes of the men. There is scarcely a newspaper of consequence which has not a woman on its local writing staff. I don't know exactly how many of them are in the ranks of the Washington correspondents, but it is quite a little battalion. I easily recall the first woman who essayed Washington correspondence, the late Miss Austine Snead. She and her mother began in the late 60's. Would you believe it that at first some persons looked at her askance? She did not mind it. She prospered, and for some years before her death she enjoyed from her pen an income averaging \$3,000 per annum. Miss Snead was exclusively a society reporter, and most of the women who have followed her in Washington confine themselves to that branch, although others have strayed into every domain of newspaper literature.

It seems to me the most eventful and the most interesting period of my career as a Washington correspondent was during the impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson. I think also it furnished the incentive and the occasion for the finest and most finished correspondence from this city. It was an era of more intense and thrilling interest than any which occurred even during the throes of the Civil



War. For then there were often lulls of longer or shorter duration, when military movements were at a standstill and the country went on in every-day fashion. Not so in the impeachment epoch. The fight between Congress and the President had stirred the whole North to its very depths. In all those long weeks of uncertainty as to whether Johnson was to be expelled from the White House, there was not a moment when men's passions were not hot; not a moment when rumor and rancor were not in the air; not a moment when hearts did not tremble for the Republic. Day by day the people hung on the news from Washington and constantly hungered and thirsted for more. Ah, those were no easy hours for the correspondents. They could scarcely steal the time to sleep or eat. Their nimble fingers dashing off their dispatches kept continuous time with the clicking of the telegraph. Brain and brawn were drawn on to the limit, for subjects were always crowding fast and furious. Many of the compositions which appeared in the newspapers of that time would in their vivid and graphic portrayal have done no discredit to the ornate pages of Macaulay. Literally, President and Congress lay on their arms, and no story as to what the Executive or Legislature might or would do was too wild to receive credence. At that time the high iron fence still encircled the grounds on the western front of the Capitol. Guards were stationed at the gates and at all the entrances, east and west, of the Capitol for fear that some desperate sympathizer with the President might do dire deeds. One morning a correspondent with his note-book and writing materials, tied up in a package under his arm, was stopped by the vigilant sentries, and was not permitted to pass until he had undone his package and convinced them that it did not contain an infernal machine. It

was wonderful how, up to the last moment, the friends of the Executive and the adherents of Congress were both confident as to the result. Wagers figuring up an enormous total were laid on the issue. Among those actuated by the courage of their convictions, and who plunged in recklessly, was the late W. W. Warden, a Washington correspondent, and also one of the secretaries of the President. He staked all he could raise, beg, borrow or anticipate. When, as Charles Sumner expressed it, Andrew Johnson escaped by the skin of his teeth, Mr. Warden gathered in a sum reaching to thousands and thousands.

The late Mr. U. H. Painter, then correspondent of the *New York Sun*, plunged recklessly on the other side. Warden got a deal of his money, and he was a very lame duck for a long time after. Mr. Painter was exceedingly close to Senator Wade of Ohio, President *pro tem.* of the Senate, and it was generally understood among the correspondents if Wade went into the White House, Painter would be the power behind the throne. It is part of the political history of that day that the personal feelings of several Republican senators prevented the conviction of the President. It was not that they hated Andrew Johnson less, but they were more opposed to Ben Wade getting in the White House.

But through the whole period of reconstruction and for years subsequently political and journalistic circles in Washington were seething with excitement. Immediately after the close of the Civil War the Senate assumed that lead in the policy and the legislation of the nation which has finally grown into absolute control; for the House on all important questions does little more than follow the whim and humor of the Senate. Negro suffrage was engrafted on the Constitution by the determination of the Senate, for the House had

never treated the proposition seriously until the Senate made it an ultimatum, and it was carried only by a bare majority of one in the Senate Republican caucus. It seems strange that only a very few years afterwards Charles Sumner, who was one of the fathers of negro suffrage, should be in close political alliance with Northern and Southern Democrats against the presidential candidate of the Republican party. An evidence of what incongruous bedfellows politics sometimes makes was in the fact that in 1872 Mr. Sumner, Senator Trumbull of Illinois, who drafted the Reconstruction acts and other Republican senators, who had been foremost in the advocacy of the harshest and most severe measures against the South, were acting with that section in support of the Democratic candidate.

In 1874 when the Democrats carried the Congressional election so unexpectedly and secured an enormous majority in the new House of Representatives, the Republican senators got their heads together, and in the succeeding short session of the expiring Congress fought the war all over again. The debates of that winter were able and sensational in the extreme. For weeks together it was all politics. The Democratic minority had increased very considerably from the time when I first knew it as composed of only seven men, including two not elected as members of that party, Reverdy Johnson of Maryland, and Garrett Davis of Kentucky. On that side were speakers of force and courage fully competent to cope with any of the majority. The Democratic leader was Judge Thurman of Ohio. I never knew a public man quicker at thrust and parry than he. He wielded the battle ax of logic, the polished blade of rhetoric and the keen dagger of irony and invective with wonderful skill and effect. Mr. Thurman and Mr. Edmunds of Vermont, from their



opposing sides, were in incessant conflict. The galleries listening to their terrific denunciation of each other, would fancy they must be deadly enemies; but the galleries did not know that a few minutes after they would be down in their committee rooms exchanging pleasantries over a little black bottle.

The Congress which sat during the last two years of General Grant's presidency was the arena of unrelenting and uninterrupted political warfare from beginning to end. The stakes were the White House. The Republicans had the Senate and the Democrats the House. It had been a very long time since the Democrats held control of either branch of Congress. They had an overwhelming preponderance in their branch. They endeavored to uproot every scandal and intrigue connected with the Republican administration of the government since 1861. The Senate Republicans, on the other hand, applied themselves to stirring to the bottom sectional feeling and painting the horrors and destruction which would come upon the country should the Democrats return to power. All these scenes and incidents are comparatively fresh, and it would be superfluous to go into them in detail. Still it quickens one's pulses even at this day to recall how in that memorable winter of 1876-77 the country was in doubt for so many long weeks as to who would be the President after March 4, or whether we would have one at all. Had the House Democrats of that day been as good politicians as the Senate Republicans there would have been no uncertainty, no apprehension over the result, and the Electoral Commission would never have been known. Twice the House Democrats took action, which if in either case omitted would have made certain the declaration of Mr. Tilden's election. The House arrogated the joint rule of the two houses for counting

the electoral vote, and it passed the joint resolution to admit the state of Colorado into the Union. It is true this action, in both cases, was taken prior to the presidential election. But, in the first instance, there was no occasion to be in a hurry. The rule could as easily have been annulled after the election and before the count. In the case of Colorado its three votes were necessary to give Hayes the majority of one which was counted for him. Without them Tilden would have had a clear majority of two exclusive of the states in dispute. The House Democrats took the chance of Colorado going for their ticket, but it was a desperate risk, and it was poor politics to take it.

In March, 1881, on the accession of Garfield to the presidency, the special session of the Senate was invested with extraordinary importance. Upon the attitude of General Mahone of Virginia depended whether the Republicans or the Democrats would control that body. With a reticence almost without precedent Mahone, except possibly to a limited number of intimate friends, had not disclosed his probable purpose. When the vote was about to be taken on the Senate committees, three-fourths of the senators on both sides were absolutely uncertain as to how he would answer. There is a well-grounded belief that, up to the last moment, he was not altogether certain himself, for he had pondered over the matter day and night for months. Of course, every one knows, had Hancock been elected, Mahone would have gone on the Democratic side, where he naturally belonged. He tried to play big politics, and, as not infrequently happens, he missed. He had the satisfaction for a few years of enjoying a vast deal of notoriety, but beyond that he got very little out of it. After it was all over, the general opinion was he would have done much better had he stuck to his own

party. The whole scheme of Mahone to be a prominent actor on the national stage, and to be the dictator of public patronage in Virginia was beautifully planned. It came to grief because, as so often happens, the best laid plans of politicians run up against contingencies and complications never dreamed of in their calculations.



## WASHINGTON IN LITERATURE.

BY AINSWORTH RAND SPOFFORD.

(Read before the Society February 10, 1902.)

The beginnings of journalism in Washington mark the earliest native literary productions which have come down to us. Our first newspaper was the *Washington Gazette*, begun June 11, 1796, by Benjamin More. It was published twice a week, had more foreign intelligence than domestic, and having few subscribers in the almost uninhabited wilderness, where the government buildings were then slowly struggling into existence, it stopped publication in less than two years, in 1798. It had to compete with the *Alexandria Gazette*, founded in 1792, as the earliest District of Columbia newspaper, and one that has survived unto this day.

The first Congress in Washington met November 17, 1800, and two weeks before appeared the first number of the *National Intelligencer*, October 31, 1800. The paper was transplanted from Philadelphia by its editor and publisher, Samuel Harrison Smith, and its first number records that the vessel bearing the materials sailed for no less than six weeks, via Delaware River, Chesapeake Bay, and Potomac River, before landing in Washington. First issued tri-weekly, the paper became a daily in 1813, and enjoyed a long, influential, and successful career, until the civil war cut off nearly half its circulation.

In 1810 the *Intelligencer* was sold to Joseph Gales, who two years later formed a partnership with William W. Seaton.

Mrs. Seaton, the sister of Joseph Gales, Jr., Mr. Seaton's partner, was the daughter of Joseph Gales, senior, a journalist at Sheffield, England. That gentleman published the *Sheffield Register*, a liberal journal, which became obnoxious to the government of George, the Third, for printing the free political pamphlets of Thomas Paine. This was in the dark days of 1794, when the trials of Gerald, Horne Tooke, Thelwall and Hardy for high treason occurred, and when Sheares and Robert Emmet were executed. Becoming an exile for opinion's sake, the senior Gales emigrated with his young family to America, settling at the capital of North Carolina, where he founded the *Raleigh Register*. His daughter, Sarah Gales, was liberally educated in Latin, French and Spanish, widely read in English literature, and learned stenography, a rare accomplishment for a woman in that day. She frequently wrote for the press. She was married in 1809 to William W. Seaton, a young Virginian, then twenty-four years of age, who had become a successful journalist at eighteen, in Richmond. Removing to Washington in 1812, Seaton joined his brother-in-law, Gales, in conducting the *National Intelligencer*. They began by acting as their own reporters in the Senate and House of Representatives, and were honored with seats by the side of the Vice President and the Speaker—a signal proof of the confidence and respect which their high character and good judgment inspired. Both Gales and Seaton became mayors of Washington, and that honorable post has been four or five times filled by journalists. About the year 1850 James C. Welling became associate editor with Mr. Seaton of the *Intelligencer*, and continued nearly fifteen years. As a writer, he was both elegant and forcible, conservative, yet broad-minded; a careful scholar, studious of accuracy, despising slang and sensations,

and rejecting innovations in spelling as inventions of the devil.

Peter Force, a man still held in reverent memory in Washington, came here in 1815 as a master printer. He was a careful historical student, and devoted many laborious years to his "American Archives," and to the publication of historical tracts, for which the scholars of America owe him a debt of gratitude. His invaluable library of books, periodicals, and manuscripts became a part of the Library of Congress in 1867.

Among the early Washington papers, one of the most prominent, politically and in a literary sense, was the *National Journal*, founded in 1823 by Colonel Force. It was a vigorous supporter of John Quincy Adams's administration. Its rivalry with the *Intelligencer* was keen, and that paper denounced the *Journal* as largely edited by Mr. Adams and other official persons. That Mr. Adams frequently wrote for it is unquestionably true.

Francis P. Blair, the elder, was a notable figure for nearly fifty years in this Capital. Born in Virginia and acquiring reputation in Kentucky as a vigorous editorial writer, he removed here in 1830 to take charge of the *Globe*, established as the Jackson administration organ. Started without a dollar of capital as a semi-weekly, with the sharp rivalry of the dailies (the *National Intelligencer* and Duff Green's *Telegraph*) it became highly important to issue it as a daily. Mr. Blair had no money, but called on some friends of President Jackson, who subscribed and paid in advance for 600 *Daily Globes* for one year at \$10, and by this aid it got the needful machinery and became a daily paper in 1831. Mr. Blair used to say, with a dry humor peculiar to him, that the *Daily Globe*, like the globe which we inhabit, was created out of nothing. In 1833 it secured the



lucrative printing of the *Congressional Globe*, as reporter of debates, which continued, with Blair and Rives and successors as proprietors, for forty years, until succeeded by the *Congressional Record*, published by the government directly at the office of the Public Printer since 1873.

Mr. Blair was a recognized power in politics, and his wide knowledge of men and talent for management (not always discreetly exercised) gave him even more prominence than his abilities as an editor. His hospitable country seat at Silver Spring, on the edge of the District, entertained many public men. He was addicted to long rides on horseback, and I often met him with his venerable wife, mounted like himself, when both were over eighty years of age, riding long distances on our leafy suburban roads in the fair summer weather. He died in 1876, aged eighty-five.

Duff Green was a Washington journalist of much note sixty years since. From 1826 to 1835 he edited the *United States Telegraph*, opposing J. Q. Adams's administration, supporting Jackson, turning against that President in 1830 (by which he lost the public printing, valued at \$50,000 a year), advocating Clay for President in 1832, and Calhoun in 1836, a very Ishmaelite in politics. Green was a forcible rather than an elegant writer, and easily made enemies. He owned a great block of houses known as "Duff Green's row," on First street, opposite the Capitol, which were swept away in 1887 to make room for the new Library building. Like Francis P. Blair, he walked the streets of Washington, in later life, with a long staff like an alpenstock, instead of a cane. It is a notable fact that three editors, Duff Green, F. P. Blair and Amos Kendall, all came here from Kentucky.

Amos Kendall, an early Washington journalist, came

here with the Jackson administration in 1829, and after becoming Postmaster-General and retiring from the Cabinet, published in 1841-44 a bi-weekly called *Kendall's Expositor*. This paper, he records, did not yield an income one-half sufficient for the support of his family. He became associated with Professor Morse in the newly invented electric telegraph, made a fortune, and in 1857 founded the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which, with its hundred acres, still known as "Kendall Green," perpetuates the name of Kendall. He wrote an autobiography, and began a "Life of Andrew Jackson," of which only six pamphlet numbers were published.

Thomas Ritchie, the famous editor for forty years of the Richmond *Enquirer*, removed to Washington in 1845, founded the *Daily Union*, and edited it until 1851. He died in 1854, aged seventy-six. He was a gentleman of the old school, and was widely known as "Father Ritchie."

Dr. Gamaliel Bailey, editor of the *National Era*, was a clear and persuasive writer, and his weekly paper, established in Washington in 1849 in advocacy of anti-slavery principles, had much influence, which was many fold increased when "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appeared in its columns in 1851, and became a little later a world-famous book. Rufus Choate said of it that it "made a million abolitionists."

Among the *National Era's* literary contributors were Whittier, Lowell, Sumner, Mrs. L. M. Child, Mrs. Stowe, Grace Greenwood, Mrs. Southworth, Edward E. Hale, Alice Cary, John Pierpont, Salmon P. Chase, Wendell Phillips, Henry B. Stanton and Gail Hamilton. Dr. Bailey died in 1859 on a voyage to Europe, having conducted his paper here twelve years.

I come now to note a woman author and editor who

for a quarter of a century figured in Washington. I mean Mrs. Anne Royall. Born in Maryland in 1769, she was stolen by Indians in childhood, and lived fifteen years among them, which may have given a certain flavor of wildness to her later conduct and writings. She married Captain Royall, a Revolutionary soldier, and was left a poor widow with no means of support but her brains. She began by making a tour of New York and New England, writing a fairly interesting description of the towns and the people, printed in an anonymous book, "Sketches of History, Life, and Manners in the United States," in 1826. Then she traveled over Pennsylvania, Virginia, etc., always by stage conveyance, writing constantly an endless stream of gossipy descriptions of persons and places, and supporting herself by subscriptions to her books of travel at one dollar a volume. So indefatigable was her industry that she produced eleven volumes in five years, being her own publisher, author and subscription agent.

Mrs. Royall was fifty-six years of age before she became a writer. Ending her travels and her books when she came to anchor in Washington in 1831, she started that year a weekly journal called *Paul Pry*. It was a curious mixture of politics, personalities, anti-church screeds, and slang. She styled the venerable Joseph Gales of the *National Intelligencer*, "Joe" or "brother Joe;" and when the *Washington Globe* called her a "petticoat editor," she retorted that "a petticoat patriot is at least equal to a trouserloon traitor."

Mrs. Royall thus records her opinion of journalists: "Editors are the most feeling and generous class of men in our country, and the worst rewarded in proportion to their deserts. They toil at the oar, night and day, to improve, instruct, and amuse mankind. If it were not for them the world would revert back to barbarism."



Amos Kendall notes in his journal that Mrs. Royall was introduced to him as one editor to another, whereupon she exclaimed: "I love the editors!" He saw a book in her lap, and asked: "Mrs. Royall, is that your last publication?" "Yes." "What is your price?" "I make members of Congress pay me a dollar, but I sell it to other gentlemen for seventy-five cents." "I handed her the money and took the book. Thus, cheaply, I purchased my way into the good graces of Anne Royall."

In person Mrs. Royall was tall and angular, with a not unkindly face, though rather hard-featured, with a self-asserting manner. She always wore a clean calico gown, with a cord and tassel round the waist, and immense balloon sleeves. She was the terror of Congressmen, who would often turn down side streets when Mrs. Royall's formidable poke-bonnet loomed up on the horizon, fearful of being solicited to buy her travels, or to subscribe to her paper. That she was regarded as a horrid creature by many is most true; but it is equally true that Anne Royall made many friends wherever she went, and that she was not without kindness and even charity. The world's judgment of erratic persons who become prominent in any age is apt to be severe; but a more impartial judgment holds in fair balance the good and the evil in human character, and refuses to condemn too harshly the struggling and industrious woman, who, in a ruder age than ours, conquered adversity and ate her hard-earned bread in the sweat of her brow.

It has been asserted that Anne Royall was the first woman journalist; but as Cornelia Walter was for years an editor on the Boston *Evening Transcript* prior to 1834, and Mrs. J. B. Colvin published the *Maryland Weekly Messenger* in 1817, the statement is incorrect.

Moreover, I find no less than five widows of American journalists who published newspapers, and some of whom wrote for their journals, in the century before the last.

The unusual longevity of many Washington journalists is worthy of notice here. Ritchie lived to 76 years, Blair to 85, Force to 78, Gales to 74, Seaton to 81, Duff Green to 81, Kendall to 80, and Anne Royall to 85.

One woman journalist there was, of conspicuous ability, who conducted a weekly paper in Washington for five years. This was Kate Field, a woman of engaging personality, keen perceptions, and a trenchant and often picturesque style. Independent to the very verge of audacity, she made mistakes—a failing not wholly unknown to men, and even (saving this presence) to women; but her high ambitions, broad views, untiring industry, fine humor, and companionable qualities left a palpable void when, in 1896, she departed from the world.

Indissolubly connected with the history of the national capital are the many published works of national importance here produced. There is hardly any department of science which is unrepresented in the long roll of publications by the government of the United States. Let me name some of the subjects thus illustrated: Geographical explorations, the ethnology of the continent, voyages round the world, astronomical discoveries, measurements of heights and of distances, diseases of animals, surveys of lands, military and naval tactics, systems of education, observations of planets and eclipses, the ravages of insects, the bibliography of meteorology, geological surveys of vast extent and volume, reports on American libraries, the census of the United States, the progress of the industrial arts, the development of American agriculture, the reports of

monetary commissions, digests of international law, the penal codes of all nations, labor in foreign countries, the fisheries of the world, the geographical distribution of birds, our commerce and navigation, medical and surgical history of the Civil War, documentary history of the same eventful period, Atlantic and Pacific coast pilots, nautical almanacs for navigators, the traffic in intoxicating liquors, the navies of the world, the art of gunnery, volumes on irrigation, marriage and divorce statistics, forestry science, history and characteristics of the Indian tribes, mineral resources and development, the history of the capital of the United States, education in fine art and decorative art, railway development, wages at home and abroad, customs, tariffs, inter-oceanic canals, and a multitude of other subjects, by far too numerous to be cited here, have been treated in these government publications.

While belonging mostly to the literature of science, the numerous government publications can receive only a cursory notice of the principal writers' names, all of whom have been residents of Washington. They include among others the following well-known authors: Bache, Henry, Baird, Hassler, Maury, Schoolcraft, Gilliss, Peirce, Fremont, Nicollet, Hayden, Pumpelly, King, Powell, Hilgard, Dutton, Newcomb, Billings, Mallery, Riley, Langley, Goode, Mendenhall, Gill, Raymond, Greely, Bell, Gannett, Walker, McGee, Holden, Harris, Ward, Coues, Humphreys, Wright, Wheeler, Walcott, Day, Wilson, Mason, Ridgway, Abbe, Emmons, Hague, Hall, Vasey, Thomas, Blake, Otis, Howard, Clarke, Sternberg, Taylor, Nourse, Rhees, Woodward, Dall, Mooney, Holmes, Cushing, Ferrell, Merriam, Merrill, North, Cross, True, Wines, Bigelow, Willis, Becker, Hodge, Hyde, Wiley, and a host of others.

In short, the publications of the United States at



Washington may be said to have illuminated almost every field of research in science, so far as its practical relations are concerned.

Almost all of the notable books put forth in these varied fields are the product of the last fifty years, and the larger share of them of the last twenty-five. The earlier explorations of this government were not published at Washington, but elsewhere. The reports of Lewis and Clark's Western expedition to the Pacific in 1805, of Pike's expedition to the sources of the Mississippi in 1806, and of Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819 were all published at Philadelphia between 1810 and 1823. The earliest reports of geographical explorations actually printed in Washington which I have found were Col. Fremont's expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1843), and Nicollet's report on the Upper Mississippi River, also printed here in 1843. The evolution to be remarked from the dingy, coarse paper, worn type, and slovenly binding of these early examples of Washington book manufacture, to the elegantly finished work now turned out here is not more striking than the evolution from the crude and unscientific topographic observations of sixty years ago to the precision and research which satisfy the exactions of modern science.

These earliest specimens of the Washington printers' work, as employed upon records of government explorations, were soon followed by Emory's Mexican Boundary Report, 3 vols. (1848); Herndon and Gibbons's Exploration of the River Amazon, 2 vols. (1853); Marcy's Exploration of the Red River (1854); Gilliss's U. S. Astronomical Expedition to Chili and the Southern Hemisphere, 4 vols. (1855); Perry's Expedition to Japan, 3 vols. (1856); and the long series of Pacific Railway Explorations in 13 volumes, from 1855 to 1860.

These all preceded in point of time the foundation of a Public Printing Office, owned and operated by the government, in 1860.

I come now to notice, with extreme brevity, some of the Washington writers of historical or literary works. Samuel Blodget stands earliest on the list, having published in 1801 what is believed to have been the first book printed in America on economic science. It was entitled "Thoughts on the Increasing Wealth and National Economy of the United States," signed "Observer," and bore the imprint, "City of Washington, printed by Way & Groff, North E street, near the post-office, 1801." This work of forty pages, with a folded "Statistical Table" annexed, is one of the earliest books, if not the earliest, printed in Washington.

Joel Barlow, author of that epic poem, "The Columbiad," printed at Philadelphia in 1807, and of several political works, was a resident of Washington from 1807 to 1811, where he owned a fine estate which he called "Kalorama."

David B. Warden wrote the first systematic book on the District of Columbia, and printed it at Paris, where he was American consul, in 1816. It was entitled "Chorographical and Statistical Description of the District of Columbia," and was illustrated by a map.

Of books which contain descriptive or historical accounts of Washington, the name is legion. Next after Warden's book in importance came Jonathan Elliot's notable volume, "Historical Sketches of the Ten Miles Square Forming the District of Columbia," published in 1830. This book is the source from which many subsequent Guide Books to Washington have been drawn, its full documentary history being abridged in every form. Elliot was a journalist of indefatigable industry as writer and compiler. He edited and published the

Washington *Gazette* from 1815 to 1826, and besides his history of the District of Columbia, he compiled no less than ten large volumes on political, diplomatic, and economic science. These were (1) "The Diplomatic Code of the United States," a collection of treaties and conventions between the United States and foreign powers from 1778 to 1827, republished and continued to 1834, in two volumes, under the title of "The American Diplomatic Code." This elaborate work was the first published collection of American treaties, and is not even yet superseded, because it contains in addition valuable summaries of U. S. Supreme Court decisions on points of international law, a diplomatic manual, as to the powers and privileges of foreign ministers, Consular instructions, correspondence of diplomatic agents, etc.

(2) "Debates, Resolutions, and Proceedings in Convention on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution" in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, with the Journal and Debates of the Federal Convention, held at Philadelphia from the 14th of May to the 17th of September, 1787; 4 vols, Washington, 1827-30. This elaborate book was the earliest, as it still remains one of the most important contributions to the political history of the United States. Elliot gathered the scattered materials of the controversy over the Constitution in the various States in which the debates had been preserved. He added to these in 1845 the whole of the "Madison Papers," being that statesman's report of the debates in the Federal convention, taken down by his own hand, and without which we should have had no record of that ever-memorable discussion of the fathers of the Constitution, who sat in secret session. These compilations of Elliot



have served as the political arsenal from which several generations of Congressmen have drawn their weapons of attack and defense in party warfare.

(3) "The Funding System of the United States," Washington, 1845. This thick volume of 1,323 pages forms the earliest considerable report on comparative national finance ever made. It is a full history of the Revolutionary and subsequent debts of the United States, the Dutch and French loans, sinking funds, etc., with an account of the British funding system and national debt, and those of other nations.

Prior to his entrance upon Washington journalism and authorship, Mr. Elliot had a remarkable and adventurous career. Born in England (like another Washington journalist, Joseph Gales, who was born in 1786, while Jonathan Elliot was born in 1784) Elliot emigrated to New York at about eighteen years of age, where he obtained employment in a printing office. When the war for South American independence broke out in 1810, Elliot, who cherished an ardent love of liberty, volunteered under General Bolivar, the liberator of Spanish America, fought bravely for the independence of New Granada (now the Republic of Colombia) and was seriously wounded. In the surrender of Gen. Miranda to the Spaniards in 1812, Elliot was taken prisoner, and cruelly treated as a captive, but finally in 1813 got back to the United States, and again volunteered in the army then engaged in fighting England. In 1814, he settled in Washington.

Among the many authors of books who have been residents of Washington, may be summarily mentioned Robert Mayo, who wrote a large volume on "The Treasury Department; Its Origin and Operations," and works on geography, astronomy and mythology; Thomas Law, a pioneer settler, author of "Thoughts on Instinctive

Impulses," and many writings on public policy and finance; Augustus B. Woodward, who wrote "Considerations on the Government of the Territory of Columbia," 1801; Francis S. Key, long resident here, author of "The Star Spangled Banner" and a volume of poems; George W. Cutter, poet, and author of "The Song of Steam;" George Watterston, Librarian of Congress from 1815 to 1829, who wrote three volumes of sketches, descriptive of public men of his day, and several stories; Joseph B. Varnum, who published "The Washington Sketch Book" and "The Seat of Government of the United States." Peter Force, whose laborious historical researches were invaluable, produced nine folio volumes of the American Archives, and many pamphlets on historical subjects. George Bancroft spent the last fifteen years of a serene old age in Washington, from 1875 to 1890, writing here his "History of the Formation of the Constitution," and the complete revision of his "History of the United States." He died at the age of ninety years.

I continue to note George W. Samson, author of "Elements of Art Criticism" and other works; Samuel Tyler, biographer of Chief Justice Taney, and writer on philosophy and literature; Nathan Sargent, an early press correspondent, who wrote two volumes on "Public Men and Events;" Charles Lanman, a copious writer of books of travel, biography, and miscellany; Albert Pike, poet, and author of books on Freemasonry and law; Charles D. Drake, law and miscellaneous writer; Joseph M. Toner, who wrote copiously on history, hygiene, etc.; Charles Nordhoff, author of "The Communistic Societies of the United States" and tales of sea life; Charles B. Boynton, author of a history of the navy, two volumes, and other works; his son, Henry V. Boynton, who wrote "Sherman's Historical Raid,"

etc.; Moncure D. Conway, a cosmopolitan author, once pastor of a church in Washington; William H. Channing, a Washington pastor and chaplain in Congress, and an extensive writer; George W. P. Custis, writer of "Recollections of Washington;" George Wood, author of "Peter Schlemihl in America," etc.; Clement M. Butler, author of six or eight books on religion and ethics; F. Colburn Adams, who wrote "Manuel Pereira," "The Siege of Washington," etc.; Henry Barnard, a copious writer upon education; Edwin De Leon, author of "Thirty Years of My Life on Three Continents," etc.; Louis A. Gobright, who wrote "Recollections of Men and Things at Washington;" Ralph R. Gurley, who wrote several biographies and a book on African colonization; Franklin B. Hough, author of many historical and miscellaneous works; Winslow M. Watson, who wrote the life of Benjamin Ogle Tayloe; Peter Parker, whose letters and other writings illustrate early American intercourse with China; John W. Forney, who wrote "Anecdotes of Public Men," etc.; John P. Newman, a copious writer of travels, etc.; Benjamin G. Lovejoy, who wrote a "Life of Francis Bacon;" John W. Hoyt, a writer upon educational topics and a national university; Hugh McCulloch, author of "Men and Measures of Half a Century;" John J. Knox, who wrote several books on American currency and banking; Edmund Hudson, author of a memoir of Mary Clemmer; Frederick Douglass, author of "My Bondage and My Freedom;" George C. Hazelton, Jr., writer of "The National Capitol," and of fiction and drama; De B. Randolph Keim, copious writer of Washington hand-books and other works; Randolph H. McKim, author of "Leo XIII." and other writings; David J. Hill, whose books on rhetoric, biography, and social questions number many volumes; Mrs. Emma D. E.



N. Southworth, whose many novels were mostly written in Georgetown. Continuing, note the names of Mary Clemmer, author of "Ten Years in Washington" and other volumes of prose and poetry; Horatio King, who wrote "Sketches of Travel" and "Turning on the Light;" William T. Sherman, author of memoirs by himself; Ben. Perley Poore, a veteran journalist, author of "Reminiscences of Sixty Years," etc.; Robert B. Warden, who wrote "Private Life of Salmon P. Chase" and other books; Samuel S. Cox, whose "Winter Sunbeams" and other works are well known; John Sherman, author of "Recollections of Forty Years," etc.; Caleb Cushing, long resident here and writer of several books; Mary A. Denison, a copious writer of books of fiction; Joaquin Miller, several of whose books were written here; Edward McPherson, compiler of the "Political History of the Rebellion," "History of Reconstruction," and the long series of "Political Text Books," from 1870 to 1894; William A. Hammond, a copious writer of books on medical science and of novels; John J. Piatt, who wrote "The Nests at Washington" and many volumes of poems; Charles C. Nott, author of "Sketches of the War," "The Seven Great Mediæval Hymns," etc; John F. Hurst, author of "Indika," "Literature of Theology," and volumes on ecclesiastical history; Edward D. Neill, who wrote "Terra Mariæ," "The Virginia Company," and many other historical works; David D. Porter, author of "History of the Navy," "Allan Dare," and a series of novels; Harriet T. Upton, who wrote "Our Early Presidents," etc.; W. B. Webb, historical and law writer; Philip H. Sheridan, whose "Personal Memoirs" form two bulky volumes; Julia Seaton, author of "William W. Seaton, a Memoir;" Isabella Alden, whose many stories under the name of "Pansy" are well known;

Frederick A. Ober, author of many books of travel; Elizabeth B. Johnston, author of "Original Portraits of Washington," "Washington, Day by Day," and a recent volume of stories; A. W. Pitzer, who wrote "Ecce Deus Homo" and other religious works; T. H. McKee, compiler of works on Protection, Inaugurations, writer; Lester F. Ward, author of "Dynamic Sociology" and several other works in philosophy and science; Alice C. Fletcher, who wrote "Studies of Indian Music" and other writings on the American Indian tribes; W. W. Rockhill, author of "Life of the Buddha" and travels in the East; James M. Sterrett, who wrote "Studies in Hegel," etc.; William L. Shoemaker, author of a book on the Indian Weed, and poems; Ellis H. Roberts, who wrote a History of New York State and "Government Revenue;" Daniel Ammen, author of "Country Homes" and works on the American Navy; Frank W. Hackett, who wrote "Gavel and Mace," a Memoir of W. A. Richardson, etc.; Oliver O. Howard, author of "Isabella of Castile" and other works; Frederic Bancroft, whose "Life of William H. Seward" has recently appeared; David G. Adeë, author of several works of fiction; Alvey A. Adeë, a critical writer upon Shakespeare, etc.; George C. Gorham, author of the Life of Edwin M. Stanton; Mary I. Taylor, writer of several recent novels; William H. Babcock, a fruitful writer of romances, etc.; Henry C. Bolton, whose many contributions to bibliography and chemistry are well known; Frank G. Carpenter, author of travels in Asia, South America, etc.; Alexander P. Morse, who wrote an elaborate "Treatise on Citizenship," and other works; Nelson A. Miles, author of "Military Europe," etc.; George L. Raymond, who wrote "Painting, Sculpture and Architecture," and many other works on the

fine arts; Alex. Melville Bell, author of "Principles of Speech," and books on Visible Speech and Elocution; Alexander Graham Bell, who wrote "Facts and Opinions relating to the Deaf" and many essays on scientific topics; Augustus G. Heaton, author of "The Heart of David," etc.; Simon Newcomb, who wrote "His Wisdom the Defender," and many scientific books; William E. Curtis, author of "The True Thomas Jefferson," etc.; Marshall Cushing, who wrote "The Story of the American Post Office;" John G. Bourke, author of "The Apache Campaign," "Snake Dance of the Moquis," etc.; George Kennan, author of two notable works on Siberia, etc.; William T. Harris, author of "The Spiritual Sense of Dante's 'Divina Commedia'" and many writings on philosophy and education; Richard Hovey, writer of several dramatic and poetic works; Harriet Riddle Davis, who wrote "In Sight of the Goddess" and other stories; Mary S. Lockwood, author of "Historic Homes in Washington;" Jeanie Gould Lincoln, who wrote "A Genuine Girl" and other stories; Samuel C. Busey, author of "Pictures of the City of Washington in the Past" and other works; Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren, writer of many volumes of fiction; Walt Whitman, who wrote several of his books in Washington; John G. Nicolay, who wrote the standard biography of Abraham Lincoln; John Hay, joint author of that work, and the poet of "Pike County Ballads," and author of "Castilian Days," etc.; Sara J. Clarke Lippincott, author of many volumes of literary and personal sketches and a book of poems; Henry Adams, author of "History of the United States," etc.; John Burroughs, whose volumes of essays on rural subjects and the kingdoms of nature bear much of the flavor and charm of our Washington suburbs; Donn Piatt, the trenchant critic of military heroes and



public men in civil life; Anna H. Dorsey and Ella Loraine Dorsey, whose stories number many volumes; James E. Rankin, author of books of poems and of essays in prose, as well as a copious musical composer; James W. Davidson, author of "Living Writers of the South" and other books; Mary J. Safford, writer of many translations from the French and German; Olive Risley Seward, who wrote "W. H. Seward's Travels Around the World" and other books; Stephen J. Field, author of "Personal Reminiscences of Early Days in California" and other writings; Anna L. Dawes, who wrote "How We Are Governed" and a "Life of Charles Sumner"; Robert Fletcher, a graceful writer of literary and scientific essays; Albert G. Riddle, author of many books of fiction, and a memoir of Benjamin F. Wade; Edward M. Gallaudet, author of a "Manual of International Law" and other works; Eliza R. Scidmore, who has brought Alaska and the countries of the Orient near to us by her graphic books of travel; Florence A. Merriam, writer of books upon birds, etc.; Thomas Nelson Page, writer of many books of Southern life and dialect stories; Frances Hodgson Burnett, one of the most widely read writers of fiction; Molly Elliott Seawell, whose books of biography and novels are among the most recent publications; I. Edwards Clarke, author of "Art and Industrial Education," etc.; Caroline H. Dall, author of "College, Market, and Court" and many works of literary criticism; Edward D. Townsend, author of "Anecdotes of the Civil War"; Maurice F. Egan, author of poems, novels, and literary criticism; Frank Sewall, writer of books of story and miscellanies; George Alfred Townsend, author of "Washington Outside and Inside" and many volumes of story and song; Julia Schayer, writer of several books of stories; Stephen B. Weeks, writer on education, etc.; Lafayette

C. Loomis, author of "Index Guide to Travel and Art Study in Europe"; Edward A. Fay, author of the "Concordance to the Works of Dante" and of many writings on deaf-mutism; Ednah Clarke Hayes, a poet-author of recent note; Charles W. Stoddard, author of several stories and of voyages and travels; John W. Foster, whose book on "A Century of American Diplomacy" has recently appeared; Jeremiah Curtin, author of "Myths of the Slavs," "Hero Tales of Ireland," and translator of "Quo Vadis?" and other Polish novels; J. L. M. Curry, who has written "Constitutional Government in Spain" and other works; Clara Barton, author of the "History of the Red Cross"; Marcus Benjamin, writer on historical subjects; William Birney, author of "James G. Birney and His Times"; John A. Kasson, a copious writer on diplomacies and constitutional history; Mrs. John A. Logan, who wrote "Thirty Years in Washington," and Allen C. Clark, author of the recent thorough historical monograph "Greenleaf and Law in the Federal City."

We must add to the roll of authors many whose official life in Washington was long enough to entitle them to notice. Out of twenty-three Presidents who resided here thirteen have written books—Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, both the Adamses, Van Buren, Buchanan, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, Harrison, McKinley, and Roosevelt. Among Cabinet officers who were authors may be named Livingston, Legare, Gallatin, Wirt, Rush, Paulding, Cass, Kennedy, Everett, Davis, Thompson, Blaine, Boutwell and Long.

Quite a number of the ministers of foreign countries who have been residents in Washington have been contributors to literature. Sir Augustus G. Foster, Minister of Great Britain in 1811, wrote some individual and amusing sketches of Washington life in the time of President Madison, which were privately printed.

Monsieur Bacourt, who represented France in 1840-42, wrote a book entitled "Souvenirs of a Diplomat," printed posthumously in 1882. He was not well satisfied with his "exile" in Washington, and wrote like a *blasé* Parisian of the Boulevard des Italiens, condemned to live for two years in a semi-barbarous country. He naïvely asserts that in America "almost all the more distinguished gentlemen are journalists," but then he gravely informs us in another place that "almost all Americans carry daggers in their pockets."

G. T. Poussin, French minister in 1848, wrote three well-considered volumes upon the constitution and power of the United States, and others upon American public works and internal improvements.

Señor D. F. Sarmiento, minister here of the Argentine Republic, published many volumes of historical and miscellaneous writings.

Señor Felipe Molina, minister from Costa Rica, wrote several treatises on Costa Rica and her boundaries.

Baron Kurd von Schlözer, ambassador from Germany to Washington in 1876-7, wrote a biography of Frederick the Great, of Prussia.

Manuel Larrainzar, who represented the Mexican Republic in 1852, published several works on international questions.

The Russian minister here in 1819, Mr. de Poletica, published in French and English a work on the internal condition of the United States.

José A. de Paez, minister of Venezuela in 1860, published his Autobiography in 1867.

The lamented Matias Romero, minister for twenty years of the Mexican Republic, was an industrious writer upon financial and economic subjects, publishing more than twelve volumes in English or Spanish during his embassy here.



Don Luis de Onis, minister of Spain from 1809 to 1819, wrote much upon international questions.

Sir Stratford Canning, British minister in 1820-23, wrote letters and journals of his diplomatic service, published in two volumes in 1888.

Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, British minister in 1850-51, wrote a memoir of Palmerston and other works.

The Washington contributions to the literature of the law have been copious and important, but cannot here be entered upon.

Perhaps you will concur with me that the list of authors whom I have cited, however incomplete, is enough to prove that the literature of Washington is not unprolific in the number or the value of its productions. Outside of the notable galaxy of New England writers which adorned the latter half of the nineteenth century, and the last of whom passed away with Oliver Wendell Holmes, what city can furnish a more fruitful list of writers of books?

## THE BEGINNINGS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

By W. B. BRYAN.

(Read before the Society March 10, 1902.)

The grant of power of "exclusive legislation" over the district selected as the permanent seat of government had but one meaning to the framers of the Constitution of the United States. It meant placing the Federal Government on a footing of independence in the territory set apart for its use. There it should be supreme, its dignity and authority not being subjected either to the caprices or the weakness of any state or local power. The determination which thus found expression in a constitutional provision was lifted from the range of a mere theory by the well-known incident in the history of Congress, when an appeal for protection to the authorities of the state of Pennsylvania went unheeded and the national legislature thereupon retired to a place where its deliberations were not threatened with interruption.

The revolt of certain troops of the Pennsylvania line and their menacing appearance surrounding the place where Congress was assembled occurred on the twenty-first of June, 1783. Three days later that body was in session in Princeton and, on the first of September, received a message from the general assembly of Pennsylvania inviting it to return to Philadelphia. In this paper appears the first reference to the subject of conferring upon Congress the right of jurisdiction over the place where the permanent seat of government might

be located. It was evidently taken for granted that, after the occurrence of a few weeks before, something of the sort was expected and so the state legislature asked Congress what jurisdiction it might deem necessary to have over the proposed site. This question having thus been raised, as it seemed proper by a body whose hesitating remissness had led to the humiliating flight, it was at once recognized as not only of importance but as no doubt "involving some novel considerations." So the entire matter was referred to a committee and subsequently a report was made to the committee of the whole house. One session was spent in discussing the report and then the committee adjourned without action. There is no record of a further session being held.\*

This was in September, 1783. Early in October is recorded the first of the many resolutions offered during the seven years following, that the subject of the selection of a capital site was before Congress. This resolution contained a clause providing that "the right of soil and an exclusive or such other jurisdiction as Congress may direct shall be vested in the United States." Practically the same language was made a part of all subsequent resolutions so that it is quite evident the citizens of the various states offering territory for such a purpose were willing that Congress should have territorial jurisdiction.

While this subject was pending in Congress, the convention that framed the Constitution finished its work and for the reasons as set forth in the debates and given above and in undoubted response to the sentiment of the day the clause was inserted giving to the national body the power of exclusive legislation. In the same section of that instrument similar powers are given to

\* Acts of Congress in relation to the District, W. A. Davis, 1831, p. 10.



Congress over all territory held by the United States for use as forts, arsenals, navy yards, etc.

The origin of the idea of the capital of the nation located in a district to be under exclusive control of the national body of law-makers is therefore easily traced. Even after the passage of the law of 1790, which fixed the location and provided that the Government should be removed there ten years later, there is no suggestion that either Congress or the public viewed this question from any other point of view than that of the national. As to what appears to us to-day important phases of the situation, namely, the scope of such a unique grant of power and how it could be exercised in a form of government based on the principle of the representation of the taxed, seemed not to have troubled the minds of the Fathers. Although the entire District, by the act of 1790, is spoken of as having been selected as the seat of government and not any part of it and while the act made no specific provision for the founding of a city, yet undoubtedly there was no other notion in the minds of men at that time but that the place chosen as the home of the National Government would become the center of a large population.

A similar idea prevailed also during the years this question was before Congress, which explains in large part the strong and at times bitter rivalry that existed between the localities, and the prolonged struggle which made the selection of a seat of government one of the leading public questions of the day. At the same time there is no record that the method to be adopted for providing for the political rights of a people who, while citizens of the United States, would not be the citizens of any state, was a source of any speculation or entered as a factor into the consideration of the matter. Even in those luminous expositions of the Constitution found

in *The Federalist* this phase is but meagerly touched upon and it is then that Madison rather lamely suggests as a substitute for what would be lost by the change, that Congress might set up a local government. Although the same principle of territorial jurisdiction applied to the land occupied as forts, arsenals and dock yards, yet it was never supposed, and in fact it has never occurred, that these bits of United States soil would become the home of any number of people.

The silence as to what may be termed the political side of this situation was presumably not due either to ignorance or indifference. During the years that intervened between 1790 and 1800 no recorded reference was made, either in or out of Congress, to the effect on the political status of citizens by the exercise on the part of Congress of its power over the seat of government. It must have been well understood that under the Constitution the people of the new territory would be deprived of a direct representation in the government under which they lived and would have no voice in national affairs, and not even in local affairs unless with the permission of Congress. Except making an appropriation to enable the commissioners in charge of the erection of public buildings in the new city to complete that work—the funds of the city having become exhausted—there was not only no further legislation but there is no recorded discussion of the subject. The minds of the people were apparently not agitated as to the relation which this anomalous creation of the Constitution would bear to the states of the republic. It is probable that if such a conjecture arose, it was dismissed with the thought that when the time came some solution would be found. Perhaps, however, even that degree of consideration smacked too much of the academic to be possible in those practical days.

The law of 1790 which accepted the cession of land for the new district from the states of Virginia and Maryland also contained a provision by which the national body began the exercise of its constitutional right. A body of laws and a government for the new territory was supplied by the enactment that the operation of the laws of the states of Virginia and Maryland should "not be affected by the acceptance until the time fixed for the removal of the government thereto and until Congress shall otherwise by law provide." In accepting the jurisdiction of the laws of Maryland and Virginia, the legislatures of both states had their functions continued over the District and during this period of ten years enacted a number of laws with special reference to the territory. At the very outset in its dealings with the District, it will thus be seen, Congress began the policy of delegating its powers of legislation to other agencies, at first broadly and then strictly limited. For the first period they were the legislatures of two states; in later years they were local municipal corporations and a territorial form of government. More than a quarter of a century ago, when the present form of government by commission was established, Congress for the first time began the exercise in its completeness of its constitutional power over the District.

After the enactment of the law of 1790 there is no record of a further step, or an attempt to make one, in the direction of Federal control until the sixteenth of April, 1800, just prior to the close of the last session of Congress held in the city of Philadelphia. At that time the House adopted a resolution providing for the appointment of five members to draw up rules and regulations relating to the District of Columbia. At the head of this committee was Henry Lee, of Virginia,



one of the conspicuous figures of the Revolutionary War. There is no record of a report having been made by that committee. In the fall of the same year Congress met for the first time in the new city. Upon that occasion President Adams, in the course of his address to the House of Representatives referring to the removal of the Government to the new seat, made a significant reference to the political relations of the new District when he said:

“It is with you gentlemen to consider whether the local powers over the District of Columbia, vested by the Constitution in the Congress of the United States shall be immediately exercised.” This portion of the address was referred to a special committee and Henry Lee, of Virginia, was named as its chairman. After a consideration of this subject, lasting three weeks, the committee brought in a report based on a construction of the law of 1790 that after the first Monday in December, 1800, the laws of Virginia and Maryland were no longer in force in the District. A bill was therefore reported continuing in force the laws of those states as they existed on the first Monday in December, 1800, and as an additional exercise of the constitutional rights conferred on Congress, it was directed that all executive and judicial officers of the respective states who had jurisdiction over the District on the first Monday in December “should continue to hold and exercise such jurisdiction until removed by the President of the United States.” The future appointment of such officers, it was stipulated, should be made by the President in the exercise of his constitutional powers. With a body of laws thus provided, together with a set of Federal officers, and the legislative authority of the states being brought to an end, the District would be directly under Federal control. Its citizens would no longer be

subject to the laws of the respective states and in consequence would cease to be citizens of those states.

This measure was a long step in advance of the position taken by Congress by the law of 1790, as in the latter instance jurisdiction was assumed with a delegation of powers while in the former case the Federal authority was to be supreme. It was explained by Mr. Lee that this measure had been prepared merely to allay the feeling of uncertainty that existed in the District arising from the belief that the jurisdiction of the state laws ceased at the time the District became the permanent seat of government. It was not intended as a part of a permanent system.

The construction placed on the law by the committee that on, and after the first Monday in December, 1800, Congress alone could legislate for the District, that then the Constitution forbade such a function within the District to any other body was not endorsed by the House and the bill was recommitted.

A similar position was taken by the Senate committee which made a report to that body, also recommitted, to the effect that the powers of the states of Virginia and Maryland to legislate in the District have wholly ceased and that the sole power of legislation was then vested exclusively in Congress. As far as the committees of the two houses were concerned the answer to the President's question as to whether the local powers over the District vested by the Constitution in Congress shall be immediately exercised, was decidedly in the affirmative.

It is apparent from the discussion that the difference of opinion between the two houses and their committees was not vital, as it involved the issue of when more direct Federal authority should be exercised, rather than either the character or effect of such authority.

To one who is interested to know the contemporary thought in regard to this grant of absolute power, it is a cause of surprise that in the debate which the report elicited in the House, the question of political rights did not seem to be the important one. For the first time since the adoption of this constitutional provision and the passage of the law establishing the District, the opportunity was presented for considering the subject in all its phases. It is evident, however, that the representatives in Congress regarded as of higher consequence the question of whether on the date named by the committees Congress had or had not assumed in full its constitutional powers over the District. There were, however, those who were opposed to going any further in this direction and they argued that this was one of the powers of the Constitution that could be exercised or not just as the need arose. Others held that Congress had no choice but must make use of this power, especially as it was exclusive and in this respect differed from some of the other constitutional grants. The tendency of the political thought of the day relative to the central government as represented by the two great political parties, was clearly brought out in this discussion. It was contended on the one side that the District could go on as it had for the past ten years without any further intervention on the part of Congress.

Under this arrangement the people of the District, it was argued, had lived happily for the past ten years and they could continue to do so. But if, as is proposed, they are deprived of state citizenship then they become that most pitiable object, a citizen taxed without the right of representation. It is true, said the advocates of the policy of the Federal party, with sharp emphasis, that the people of the District have lived



happily for the past ten years under the state governments yet the provisions of the Constitution on this subject had not been made with this view. It was made to bestow dignity and importance on the government.\* "It was undoubtedly," exclaimed another, "the intention of the framers of the Constitution that after this territory became the seat of government no authority but that of Congress should be in force."† The *National Intelligencer*, the organ of the anti-administration or Republican party, in an article entitled "A History of the Last Session of Congress," published April 17, 1801, stated: "The House by a large majority recommended the bill, thereby expressing an opinion that an assumption by the general government might or might not be made and that until actually made the laws of Virginia and Maryland remained in force."

It is evident that the loss of political rights was an obstacle to several members in the consideration of the measure. In the course of the discussion which took place the thirty-first of December, 1800, and this date might be appropriately called the first District Day in Congress, the future political condition of the citizens of the District under the Constitution was clearly pointed out. It was evident that while not agreeing with the committee in its construction of the law of 1780, a majority of the House, and that was Federal as also was the committee, desired a more definite plan for the government of the District than the very general scheme proposed in the report. In providing a form of government, however slight for the District, Federal authority would take the place of that of the states and the political status of all citizens of the District would be changed. This effect of action by Con-

\* *Annals of Congress*, 6th Congress, 1799-1800, p. 873.

† *Annals of Congress*, 6th Congress, 1799-1800, p. 870.

gress was apparently well understood by the law makers. It is quite plain that with a full knowledge, Congress pressed on to the exercise of its powers. So the report was returned to the committee.

With the subject again in the hands of the respective committees, the two houses turned to other topics. There is evidence that during the period when the affairs of the District were being discussed in the committees and on the floors of the respective houses, that the people of the District were not inattentive or silent spectators. The record of popular action and feeling is more meagre than we would like to have it, still there is no doubt that the voice of the people was heard then in the halls of Congress as has been the case with perhaps growing volume and importance during the entire century that has intervened.

Shortly after Congress convened in the new District, namely on the twenty-fifth of November, 1800, the Speaker laid before the House a letter from sundry inhabitants of the District, expressive of satisfaction upon the first meeting of the national assembly at the permanent seat of government. It is apparent that this communication was merely of a congratulatory character and a polite recognition of the presence of Congress. The amenities were pleasantly observed by the reference of the letter to a committee, which duly reported that the sentiments of the inhabitants of the District showed a laudable attachment to the government of this country and sincere solicitude for the accommodation of Congress. No reference was made to the political prospects of the inhabitants. That the people of the District were not oblivious of the critical stage which had been reached could be maintained on general principles of any community of 14,000 souls possessing in similar degree the intelligence and culti-

vation, so characteristic even at this date, of the population at the permanent seat.

However, according to the author of a communication which appeared in the *Alexandria Advertiser and Commercial Intelligencer* of January 6, 1801, over the signature of Citizen, "The passive indifference which prevails in this important subject would do honor to the subjects of a Turkish bashaw, but can reflect no credit on the American character or that of the citizens of Alexandria."

"Citizen" suggested the propriety of a public meeting "for the purpose of passing resolutions expressing for the information of Congress the sense of the inhabitants respecting their future government."

"To my mind," he continues, "there appears four queries to arise, on each of which it would be proper to predicate a resolution expressing an explicit opinion."

As a contemporary analysis of the possible political relations between the Federal government and the new territory, these queries are of interest. They are as follows:

"First. Whether a total separation ought to take place between the inhabitants of the District of Columbia and the states of Maryland or Virginia, or whether a modified jurisdiction should be suffered to be retained by each state; and if so under what modification should each jurisdiction be retained?

"Second. Whether if a total separation is deemed desirable the inhabitants ought to lose their weight as a part of the Union or whether they ought to possess such weight; if so how and what modification.

"Third. Whether if a separation is deemed preferable, the district or territory ought to have a local legislation; if so how ought it to be constituted; ought it to sit permanently in the City or alternately in the city of Alexandria?



“Fourth. What judicial plan ought to be adopted if a local legislature is given; is it best to leave it unfettered in this respect and to permit it to organize the judiciary of the whole, as their wisdom shall direct or is it for Congress to attempt this organization?”

To what extent the publication of this communication was influential in bringing about a public meeting, it is of course impossible to judge, but at any rate such a gathering was held January 13, 1801. If one may draw an inference from the evidence offered by a comparison of the sentiments and even expressions in the newspaper communication and of the memorial adopted at the meeting both came from the same source. In the language of this paper submitted at the public meeting the powers of Congress over the District constitute a subject that is “novel in the science of government—it is momentous to those whose lives, liberty and property are implicated in the issue.” The serious and weighty objections to the assumption by Congress of its full powers over the District are referred to in this paper which was a clear and ably written statement of the case. Admitting that Congress has the power of exclusive legislation over the District, yet its exercise was deprecated because it would mean the taking away from the citizens of their political rights. It is therefore urged that “if it comports with the present convenience of the Federal government, certain particular subjects of legislation may be assumed without impeaching the general sovereignty and jurisdiction of the states.”\*

The effect on the political condition of citizens was described when it was asserted that if Congress exercised its powers “we shall be completely disfranchised in respect to the national government, while we retain no security for participating in the formation of even

\* *Intelligencer*, February 16, 1801.

the most minute local regulations by which we are to be affected. We shall be reduced to that deprecated condition of which we pathetically complained in our charges against Great Britain, of being taxed without representation." In the same strain and with ideas, and to some extent language which the student of history of the District will recognize as familiar, the paper describes the deplorable condition of District citizenship, in the event Congress proceeds, concluding with the fervent hope that the national body will postpone "the exercise of their powers to their full, till imperious circumstances shall require; but should Congress not think fit to grant this request we earnestly entreat them to delay the full assumption till they shall have devised and matured a competent system of government and published it for the consideration of those who are naturally interested."

It is uncertain from the scanty records that have been preserved whether or not it was this paper which is referred to in the *Annals of Congress* as a memorial from the freeholders of Alexandria presented to that body January 25, 1801, praying it to establish a system of legislation and government for the District. But it is not at all likely that two distinct movements of this kind would have been probable in the then somewhat apathetic condition of public opinion. A few days later, it is recorded, a similar petition was received from the inhabitants and the freeholders of Washington but not until the lack of any expression of opinion on their part had been noticed on the floor of the House. There is no record of the inhabitants of Georgetown expressing their views in this regard.

It will be noticed in both instances, Congress was asked to provide a system of legislation and government, while in the halls of Congress members speaking

in behalf of human liberty and especially of the political rights of the citizens, urged their colleagues not to commit the crime of disfranchising these people by disturbing the existing form of government. The party in Congress opposed to further assumption had, however, sympathizers in Alexandria. It may be significant that at the presidential election in November, 1800, the last national election in which a citizen of the District cast a vote, the Republican electors in the Alexandria district received a majority of votes while in the Bladensburg district, of which Washington was a part, the Federalist ticket carried the day.\* The Republican electors were also favored by a majority in the Georgetown district. There seems to be no reason to doubt that politics had some influence on this question as it generally does in all public matters. The Federalist party naturally favored the full assumption by Congress of its powers over the District as tending to give dignity to the central government, while the Republicans were inclined to minimize the national center.

What were the views of the people of the District on this subject may also be gathered from the remarks made in the House by Mr. Craig, of Maryland, whose district included a portion of the territory of the District. He said that, as far as his knowledge of the sentiments of the people of the District extended, and he professed to be pretty well acquainted with their ideas upon the subject, that their feelings, their interests and their desires favored assumption and were opposed to delay.†

While it was evident there was a realization on the part of the residents here of the political situation of the territory, yet there was also confidence that their

\* *Intelligencer*, November 12, 1800.

† *Annals of Congress*, 6th Congress, p. 993.



liberties, as well as property interests, could safely be intrusted to Congress. Furthermore, there was apprehension as to the permanency of the city, which increased on hearing the openly expressed dissatisfaction of members of Congress because of the contrasts between the comforts of Philadelphia and the hardships of existence in a new town. The hope of still changing the location of the seat of government had not been abandoned and the friends of rival localities were naturally not friendly to the place selected. No doubt the care for vested interests here in the District had its place in the consideration of this question by the citizens. At the same time the opponents in Congress of further assumption were charged with being hostile to the location of the new District, rather than having a care for the political rights and liberties of its citizens.

It was not, therefore, with the citizens any more than in the halls of Congress, a matter involving only a change in political status. The columns of the *Intelligencer* were made use of to spread abroad information about the situation of the District. During one week (December 24-31, 1800) four essays on "considerations on the government of the District" appeared in that paper written by A. B. Woodward, whose *nom de plume* was Epaminondas. Such was the public interest in the subject that they were almost immediately issued in pamphlet form. The author, Mr. Woodward, was one of the first admitted to the bar of the District, and also was chosen by the citizens of Washington as a member of the first city council, which was elected in June, 1802.

He subsequently was appointed by President Jefferson judge of the newly organized territory of Michigan. He was a man of versatile mind, and his essays on the government of the District, which were eight

in number, while indicating mental powers of rather broad scope, are of a somewhat speculative character. In the stately and rather circuitous fashion more prevalent than in writings intended for popular use than is the case at present, Mr. Woodward discusses the report made by Mr. Lee, and then launches forth in a treatise on a plan of government for the District. He characterizes the Lee measure as unnecessary, and in a later number of the essays speaks of it as "the most silly and ridiculous ever presented to a legislative body."

He makes merry over the idea that, after such a course of preparation by Mr. Lee, referring to his appointment at the last session on the committee to draw up rules and regulations for the District, he has been able to produce such slight results. In a later essay he has more to say of the committee's chairman. A measure of this character, he explains, might be expected from a legislator like Mr. Lee, who, however competent to wield a sword at the head of an army, was not competent to wield a pen in a body of law-givers. In passing, it may be noted, that in this paper which is number five in the series, occurs what is probably the first mention of a code of laws for the District. Mr. Woodward asserts that Mr. Lee proposed framing such a code. Mr. Woodward points out that the only difference between the condition of the District prior to and that following the enactment of the proposed bill would be that then no further legislation could be expected from the state legislatures.

Under the circumstances such a system could only be of temporary duration and he laments that "in the collision and agitation which have attended the presidential election, there has not been found in the public councils a mind sufficiently calm to elevate itself above the storm and to devote some attention to the interests

of the respectable body of people comprehended in the Territory of Columbia and in the city of Washington in particular." Believing, the author states, that a permanent system of government should be devised for the District, he submits some considerations on that topic. This forms the theme of the three following essays. He declares that the subject has been much neglected by members of Congress, a cause of complaint which has existed ever since in regard to District affairs.

In paper No. 2 Mr. Woodward makes the first published suggestion, as far as I am aware, that the District be represented in the national legislature and that it have a voice in the election of a president and vice-president. He asserts with more liberality of thought than the actual practice of those days would indicate prevailed that "it is contrary to the genius of our Constitution, it is violating an original principle in republicanism to deny that all who are governed by laws ought to participate in the formation of them."

The argument used commonly in this discussion, both in and out of Congress based on the asserted rights of the governed to participate in the making of the laws under which they live, appears to be of a rather theoretical nature. For at that day only a small proportion of the people exercised the elective franchise. But the movement towards its freer use had begun, as may be gathered from the discussions on the affairs of the District.

Then, however, a great number of the people had no participation in public affairs and could neither vote nor hold office. It was perhaps the glittering generality of the phrase that attracted rather than its real and practical significance. For when a form of government for the District was reported to the House and



even when a corporation was provided for the city of Washington by Congress, provision was made in both instances to confer upon only a percentage of the citizens of the District the right to have any voice in the making of laws which they were obliged to obey.

An able essay on the pending question appeared at this time in pamphlet form. It was an anonymous contribution signed "A private citizen of the District," to the discussion of the important principle, whether Congress was bound to assume direct jurisdiction over the District. As the result of elaborate reasoning, the writer reached the conclusion that in the first place Congress was not bound to assume, because the constitutional grant of power does not always impose the obligation to exercise that power. In the second place, the acceptance of the District and the removal of the seat of government did not amount to such assumption. As to the expediency of Congress assuming, the writer laid emphasis on the fact that if such a course is pursued, the people of the District would be governed without being represented in the government. He did not admit that the words of the Constitution were imperative and that Congress must exercise its powers whether right or wrong, expedient or inexpedient.

Attention was called to the condition affixed by the states to the cession, namely, that the state laws should continue in force until Congress by law should otherwise provide. When the condition prescribed in the laws of cession is complied with, it is quite clear, the writer pointed out, that the territory of Columbia would cease to be a component part of the states respectively to which it belonged. He predicted what in a short time became the subject on the part of citizens of the District of petitions to Congress, namely, the increase in the expense of the system of jurisprudence when the

District would have to bear the entire burden instead of sharing it, as then, with their neighbors of the counties of Montgomery, Prince George and Fairfax.

He described, with admirable clearness, the status of the District under the Constitution. It can never be a state he said "because the power of exercising exclusive legislation vested by the Constitution in Congress is incompatible with the existence of a state enjoying a legislature." As the citizens of the District, he continued, are not qualified to vote for members of a state legislature they are not qualified under the terms of the Constitution to vote for members of Congress. He characterized the Lee bill as not only unnecessary but as ruinous in its effects on the District because he states "if this law be enacted it is to all intents and purposes a law providing for the government of the District under the jurisdiction of Congress and not only deprives the states of further power to legislate for us, but effectually destroys the jurisdiction of the courts of justice and all the civil officers of the state over the territory and its inhabitants."

In the event Congress should deem it expedient to exercise its power, the writer urged that a system of jurisprudence be provided for the District and such arrangements made as would enable the people of the District to govern themselves. The indefatigable Woodward replies to this argument in an essay, No. 5, which was printed in pamphlet form in Georgetown in 1801. He discusses the abstract question whether Congress must exercise this power and reaches the sound conclusion that as the District has become the seat of government its exercise is obligatory upon Congress. While admitting the disfranchised condition of the citizens of the District under the Constitution, Mr. Woodward concludes that one of two conse-

quences must result—either this provision of the Constitution must be abandoned or attended with insuperable difficulties in the execution, as it is irreconcilable with every principle of American freemen.

This brings him to the solution of the entire problem which is an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving the District representation in the national legislature. Mr. Woodward then proceeds to give the details of his plan for the government. It was first published in the *Intelligencer*, December 31, 1800, as an appendix to No. 4 of his essays. One month later the committee of which Mr. Lee was chairman reported to the House a scheme of government. To what extent the action of the committee was influenced by the ideas of Mr. Woodward and those expressed in the current discussion, it is impossible to say.

At any rate a territorial form of government was reported by the committee and that was the form advocated by Mr. Woodward. However, a territorial government was not then a novelty in this country so that the coincidence in this case is perhaps more fancied than real. Woodward's plan in its general outlines, as was also the case with that of the committee, resembled the one which had been provided by the ordinance of 1789 for the government of the northwest territory. He laid no restrictions upon the exercise of the franchise except that of citizenship in the United States and residence in the District. A suffrage provision of this character for that day was the extreme of radicalism. Unrestricted or manhood suffrage was practically unknown in this country until nearly the middle of the century.

While the bill of the House committee was similar in many of the provisions, yet a notable exception was its confining to freeholders, office holding and the exer-



cise of the franchise, following in the latter particular at least the prevailing custom in this country at that time.\* The House bill copying a feature of the Federal system had the device of the election of the members of the territorial senate by electors instead of by direct vote of the people. In both measures the interest of the United States in the District was made prominent in retaining in the control of the Federal authorities the executive branch and in reserving to Congress the right to repeal any law of the local legislature or at any time to make any law or regulation for the District.

It is quite clear that this proposed grant of powers to the government to be set up for the District was looked upon by the framers of the House bill as merely a delegation of the powers vested in Congress. As by the law of 1790 Congress gave authority to the states of Maryland and Virginia to exercise jurisdiction in the District, so in this proposed legislation Congress was to hold to the power but to create an agent. An approach to the recognition of the principle which is the underlying one of the present form of government, namely, that of the equal financial responsibility of the general and local governments in the appropriation for meeting the local governmental expenses, was made, perhaps, more fully in the House bill than by that of Mr. Woodward's for the former fixed as charges upon the Federal treasury, the pay of the governor and that of the members of the legislature. Mr. Woodward intended the District to bear the burden of maintaining the legislature—while the governor's salary was to be paid by the general government.

A curious feature of the Woodward bill showing

\* A Constitutional History of the American People, by Francis Newton Thrope, p. 97.

apparently the author's faith in the coming grandeur and greatness of the District was the provision for a tract of ground to be vested in the District government and to be used for the location of the necessary local public buildings. As specifically described by Mr. Woodward the proposed site was east of South Capitol street and south of E street southeast.

What was popularly thought of this territorial scheme of government may be gathered, in part, from an elaborate communication printed in the *Intelligencer* in the issues of January 30 and February 2, 1801. The writer, under the *nom de plume* of Washington, gives utterance to that sectional feeling which existed in the District, it appears, practically from the beginning.

There was jealousy between the different sections of the city from the start, friction between the city and county authorities of Washington, and there was also a feeling on the part of the residents of Georgetown against Washington and then the interests of Alexandria appeared to be threatened by both. This discussion of the proposed form of government has none of the philosophic spirit which characterizes the polished essays of Epaminondas. The purpose of the author is to point out some of the practical effects of the proposed territorial system and more especially to show how it would operate against the interests of Washington.

The portion of the bill restricting the exercise of the franchise, the writer maintained, would favor the county as against the three towns, for the reason that values were less in the county than in the cities with the result that land holding was more general in the former than in the latter. As the mass of property in Washington, the reasoning ran on, is held but by a few, the voters would be few and this would result in the entire prostration of Washington. "It was folly,"

the writer added, "to conceal that jealousy already exists. It is a fact that while the property of the citizens is tributary to the coffers of Prince George county, these coffers are never open to her wants however imperious." The new system in the opinion of the writer would not soften or remove these jealousies.

The bill was reported to the House January 23, 1801, but it was not until the third of the following month that it came up for discussion. An effort was then made to postpone the entire subject on the ground mainly that there was no necessity of Congress assuming further jurisdiction over the District at this time. However, this failing, the attack was directed against the bill itself and the criticism was especially sharp that the people were not allowed to choose their own governor and their executive and judicial officers. Attention was called to the fact that no man in the District would be represented in the national government which he contributed to support, "a denial of a natural right." On the other hand it was declared that the local interests of the people would be better represented in the proposed legislature than could possibly be done in similar bodies of the respective states and their affairs would be more carefully considered.

It was pointed out by one of the speakers, a Maryland representative, that he believed the people of the District were desirous that this measure become a law. Owing to the opportunities afforded by their residence at the seat of government and their acquaintance with the members of Congress, the speaker asserted, that their voices would be heard, even though they might not be represented in the national body. In the event that such a step should seem necessary by changing the Constitution a delegate might be given to the District when the population became sufficient. That the people



could not be represented in the general government was admitted by another speaker. But where was the blame if any could attach? Certainly not, he said, to the men who made the act of cession; nor to those who accepted it. It was the men who framed the constitutional provision, who particularly set apart this as a District, under national safeguard and government.\*

An indication of the sentiment of the House and as showing the progress made in liberalizing the ideas entertained about the franchise privilege, may be found in the adoption of an amendment extending the suffrage beyond the class of freeholders so as to include house-keepers with property valued at \$100. But on the previous day the House had voted down, by a majority of only two votes, a motion to extend the privilege of voting to persons who are not freeholders, which would have been unlimited suffrage.

In the Senate, as stated, a somewhat similar proposition as that first reported by the House committee which was mainly a declaration that the jurisdiction over the District lay entirely with Congress, was submitted from the committee. Like the other branch, however, the Senate evidently did not care merely for a theory and so recommitted the report. The debate, which has not been preserved, no doubt informed the committee of the course to pursue. On the twenty-ninth of January, 1801, amendments to this measure, as they were termed, were submitted to the Senate and a few days later were adopted. The bill thus amended was the same that on the twenty-first of February, 1801, became a law, the main features of which were the provisions for a judicial system for the District and continuing in force the existing laws of Maryland and Virginia.

During the several weeks that the legislative action

\* *Annals of Congress*, 6th Congress, p. 996.

relative to the District remained uncertain, some of the citizens were not inactive. There was no uncertain tone in the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the citizens of Alexandria held in that place January 31, 1801.

They asserted that it would be unjust and inexpedient for Congress to assume an exclusive jurisdiction over the District until the people are assured of a representation in that body. As such a result could only be attained through a constitutional amendment, as pointed out in one of Mr. Woodward's essays printed in the *Intelligencer* and therefore given currency in the District, it is evident that those endorsing these resolutions did not esteem it important that there should be at this time, further assumption by Congress. The resolution also affirms that the bill lately reported to Congress for the government of the District, referring, of course, to the committee's territorial bill, "is not calculated to produce any good effect to the people of the District and is an express contradiction to some of their most important rights."\*

Another portion of the resolution furnishes an interesting contribution to the study of the suffrage movement, for this meeting of citizens of Alexandria gave as one of their objections to the pending measure that the provision contained therein for the exercise of the right of suffrage was not broad enough. The particulars in which a change was desired are not indicated but in a note to the report of the meeting, added evidently by the editor of the *National Intelligencer*, the astounding statement is made: "We understand the extension contemplated is a universal suffrage without respect to qualification."

Such advanced views, especially if they were held by any number of citizens of Alexandria, justifies the

\* *National Intelligencer*, February 6, 1801.

inference that the legislature of the state was not, in this respect at least, a representative body. For at that time the charter of Alexandria permitted only property holders to vote, conforming in this particular to the law, not only in that state, but in most of the states of the Union. A few years later when Congress gave the town a new charter these limitations were not removed.

In fact the national body followed a conservative policy in regard to the elective franchise in the District. When a new charter was granted to Georgetown in 1805 only property holders were permitted to vote, while the act of incorporation of Washington of 1802 strictly confined the privilege within the same limits. Congress refused to relax these local requirements until about the middle of the century although the first city council, by unanimous vote, memorialized that body "to extend the right of suffrage to every citizen of legal age who had been a resident six months."\*

At a subsequent meeting of Alexandria citizens held February 9, a memorial to Congress embodying the views as set forth in the resolutions presented at the former meeting was adopted. In this paper objections were urged against the territorial bill. That scheme of government was opposed because in the first place, it was asserted, while Congress had undoubtedly the right to make the laws for the District, yet as the people of the District are not represented in that body, the exercise of such a right constitutes a despotism.

The national legislature was reminded that every power granted by the Constitution is tacitly accompanied by the condition that it shall be exercised in a manner consonant with general rights. Furthermore, Congress was informed that however sanguine the

\* *National Intelligencer*, December 24, 1802.



memorialists might be of "the benefit to be derived from the assumption of the exclusive right of legislation over the territory, they are not willing to barter for advantage, the rights which they conceived to be dearest to them as men."

This is only a paraphrase of the more familiar phrase "selling one's birth right for a mess of pottage," but it occurs in varying forms not only in the discussions on the government of the District at the beginning but throughout its history. The abstract force of the reasoning relative to human rights was recognized, then as now. At the same time during the century passed no substantial progress has been made in divesting the general government of all, or a part, of its powers over the District, or of changing the political status of its citizens. It is apparent that theoretically the people of the District might be classed politically, as was done both in and out of Congress, as a community of slaves. Practically such considerations did not seem to have as much weight with the residents at the nation's capital as their confidence that their prosperity and happiness could safely be entrusted to the national legislature to which had been given the custody of the interests of the nation in the seat of government.

The comment of the *National Intelligencer* in its "History of the Last Session of Congress," published April 22, 1801, in regard to the District territorial bill may probably be regarded as affording some suggestion of the tendency of public opinion of the day; although it may be inferred from the advocacy of another territorial measure at the next session that the editor's idea relative to suffrage did not go so far as to favor removing all limitations upon its exercise.

After describing in outline this measure, which was published in full in the issue of January 30, 1801, the writer adds:

"Such are the features of a bill, perhaps the most extraordinary that the annals either of Federal or state legislation present, since the era of American independence. Under the specious mask of imitating the constitution of the United States, it subverted the pillar of that instrument by limiting the right of suffrage and of being elected to office to citizens possessed of freehold property. . . . It will not be surprising that such a bill received the vigorous opposition in every stage of the republican side of the House, but it is surprising that its most pernicious provision should receive the zealous support of a majority of the House which demonstrates the extreme length to which party spirit incited with power will go, even to the sacrifice of a vital principle of liberty.

"Notwithstanding the decided and persevering opposition given to this measure it seemed likely to survive it, when the Senate agreed to a bill which they sent to the House, passed on different principles and from different motives. This bill avoided the organization of a legislature, but prescribed the establishment of a court consisting of three judges to be appointed by the President and of a board of justices and to the latter the right of taxation and of police was confided. To this system the federal side of the House was compelled, in despair of obtaining any other, reluctantly to submit, and it passed into a law."

The law of February 21, 1801, which was the outcome of this first consideration given in Congress to the problem of providing a government for the District, must have been a disappointment to many. In some respects it was intended to be a temporary measure and was so regarded at the time. As compared with the more elaborate system which gave place to it in the House, such a provision for government seems inadequate. As in nearly all matters of legislative action which show the cleavage of strong party spirit, it was a compromise pure and simple. The Federalist party was obliged to abandon its purpose of elevating the seat of govern-

ment to a position that some no doubt hoped would ultimately be on a par with that of the states of the Union, while the Republican party fell back from the position that Congress should go no further in its assumption of its constitutional powers over the District, than that of the law of 1790 and that the legislative authority of the states should be continued within the District.

The law of February 21, 1801, embodies the same principle as the bill first reported by the House committee. In both instances the existing laws of Virginia and Maryland were continued in operation and the further legislative authority of the states within the District was ended. The direct control of the Federal authority was established by both measures, while the new law provided United States judges and officers instead of attempting the impossible, as was done by the Lee bill, namely the making use of this part of the governmental machinery of the states. At the next session Congress did not yield to the renewed efforts in behalf of a territorial form of government.

As both Georgetown and Alexandria possessed municipal governments and the counties of Washington and Alexandria were governed by the levy and county courts, respectively, the city of Washington was the only part of the entire District without adequate governmental machinery. Congress the next year merely supplied this lack and did nothing more. No experiments were attempted, but a corporate form was bestowed such as was common in that section of the country. The enactment of the law of February 21, 1801, marks the close of the initial period in the history of the government of the District. It is an act of great significance, as by it the constitutional powers were more fully and directly assumed.



The local governmental agencies existing in the territory when it came under the Federal control were allowed to continue in operation and these with direct legislation by the national body and the corporation provided for the city of Washington constituted the government of the District which continued practically unchanged for a period of nearly seventy years. As it turned out, therefore, the legislation so far as it failed to provide a frame of government was not as temporary as it was thought to be at the time.\* This was, no doubt, due mainly to two circumstances, one was the slow growth of the population of the District, and the other the opposition to exalting the importance and value of the nation's capital.

This latter tendency marked the policy of Congress towards the District for some years and is not unknown at the present day. It was manifested, notably in the early days, by attempts to cede back to the states the territory constituting the District, either in whole or in part. A phase of the relation of the District to the general government which attracted attention at that early period and has not ceased to be the theme of discussion in the District and of petitions to the national legislature, was the disfranchised condition of the people of the District under the Constitution.

As the foregoing account shows, the right of the governed to have a voice in the making of the laws which they are expected to obey was proclaimed to be a natural right. Congress was informed that the very principle for which the war of the Revolution had been fought was being violated in the District. Yet, in spite of such protests and representations, the residents of the District, by action of Congress in the exercise of its constitutional powers, lost their citizenship in

\* *National Intelligencer*, May 7, 1802.

the states of Virginia and Maryland. The citizens of Washington for the first year had no voice in the management of even their local affairs but were governed by the levy court composed of justices of the peace appointed by the President and by the federal officers termed commissioners.

When the city was granted a charter the following year by a congress, controlled for the first time by the republican party, the powers conferred were limited and the executive officers were not elected by the people but were appointed by the President.

From time to time as the years went by the scope of the three municipal governments was broadened. Congress, however, continued to refuse to delegate its powers of legislation over the District to a legislature, as it had done in 1790 to the legislatures of the two states and as it did seventy years later to the government of the territory of the District of Columbia.

As is well known to even a cursory student of the history of the District the relations between the general government as represented by Congress and the District especially in their purely governmental aspects have at times called forth spirited and emphatic protests both from members of the national body and from citizens of the District. As an example of one of the earliest expressions of this kind on the part of the latter are the comments of the editor of the *Intelligencer* in the issue of August 4, 1802. It was at the close of the session which had witnessed a failure in the revival of the first effort to induce Congress to give the District a territorial form of government.

He says:

“The situation of the District ought not to be dismissed without remark. Her degraded political condition exhibiting the humiliating spectacle of a body of citizens deprived of

all their political rights in the midst of a nation glorying in its freedom, claims the attention of the legislature and of the people. Even should the principle in its present limited application be considered harmless, it ought to be remembered that it furnishes a precedent for more extensive encroachments upon political rights. It is far from being harmless. A government surrounded by twenty thousand slaves, dependent upon its bounty can answer no good end, while it may issue in effects alarming to the general freedom."

Almost a year later, February 21, 1803, a writer in the *Intelligencer*, discussing another territorial bill which was then pending in Congress, points out the inadequacy of such a method of providing for the political rights of the citizens. He states that the people ought not to be satisfied with a territorial legislature under the direct and constant control of the President and under the control of Congress.

"They will not be satisfied," he adds, "however as a sugar plum it may please the infant, the man will claim a stronger aliment. Equal rights held at the caprice of no man will only satisfy him. It is in vain, then, to temporize. The Constitution must be altered."

He further opposed the agitation of the question of the proposed form of government at this time, "as it may paralyze the effort that is being made to secure emancipation from our present thralldom."



REMARKS OF JAS. DUDLEY MORGAN, M.D.,  
BEFORE THE SOCIETY MARCH 10, 1902,  
IN EXHIBITING A UNIQUE PICTURE  
OF DUDDINGTON, THE RESIDENCE  
OF DANIEL CARROLL.

This framed picture of Duddington with the historical souvenirs imbedded in the mat of the picture, was presented to the speaker (J. D. Morgan) by John M. McCalla. The woodwork of the frame is made from the chair rail in the grand hall at Duddington; the large nails imbedded in the mat are from the rafters of the roof; the sash catch is from the window in the room of Elenora Carroll (Digges), and the key is from the entrance door of the bed-room of Daniel Carroll. The inscription at the bottom, giving a short history of Duddington, was written by Mrs. Nora Digges Morgan, the granddaughter of Daniel Carroll.

The residence of Daniel Carroll, as you know, was first started to be built in what afterwards proved to be the middle of New Jersey Avenue, southeast; this was "before the agreement between the Government and the parties took place," and it had progressed as far as the first floor above the foundation walls.

From the reading of extracts from the letters of the Commissioners and L'Enfant, parts of which are exhibited, the controversy seems to have been over the continuance of the building above the first story. Daniel Carroll of Duddington was a second cousin of Daniel Carroll of Rock Creek, the Commissioner.

EXHIBIT 1.

*Letter of the Commissioners to L'Enfant.*

26th Novn. 1791—GR.TOWN.

*Sir,*

On our meeting this day, we were equally surprised, and concerned to find that you had proceeded to demolish Mr. Carroll's house. We were impelled by many considerations to give immediate directions to those acting in your absence to desist. We must observe to you, that allowing the measure to have been absolutely necessary, and such an one as Mr. Carroll might be compelled to acquiesce in from the terms he has entered into; still our opinions ought to have been previously taken on a subject so delicate and so interesting.

We are Sir,

Your Ob't. Serv'ts.

DD. STUART,

DANL. CARROLL.

} *Commissioners.*

EXHIBIT 2.

*Extracts of a Letter from L'Enfant to the Commissioners.*

GEORGETOWN, December 6, 1791.

*Gents:*

On my return from Acquia where I had made purchase of a quarrie ground conformably to what had been agreed at your previous meeting—I received your favour of the 26 November, informing me you had given direction to the gentlemen acting in my absence to desist from demolishing a house Mr. Carroll of Duddington was about building.

Conceiving from this circumstance you supposed these gentlemen were acting of their own accord—or that you must have lost sight of the peculiar circumstance condemning Mr. Carroll's of Duddington undertaking—I must here in justice to these gentlemen testify that I had given them positive

orders for pulling down the house, the removal of which had become necessary & wishing you not to misconceive the motives which determined me to the measure & which have made me purpose in it with steady activity since my return to this place I will state to you the following particular.

. . . . .

P. S.

I have ordered the rubbish to be cleared out of the Foundation of the House demolished & directed this foundation should remain for your inspection as that part of the building having been used previous to the compact between the publick & Individuals Mr. Carroll is entitled to reimbursement for that part; I request therefore you will settle with him for that foundation which it is necessary should be soon removed.

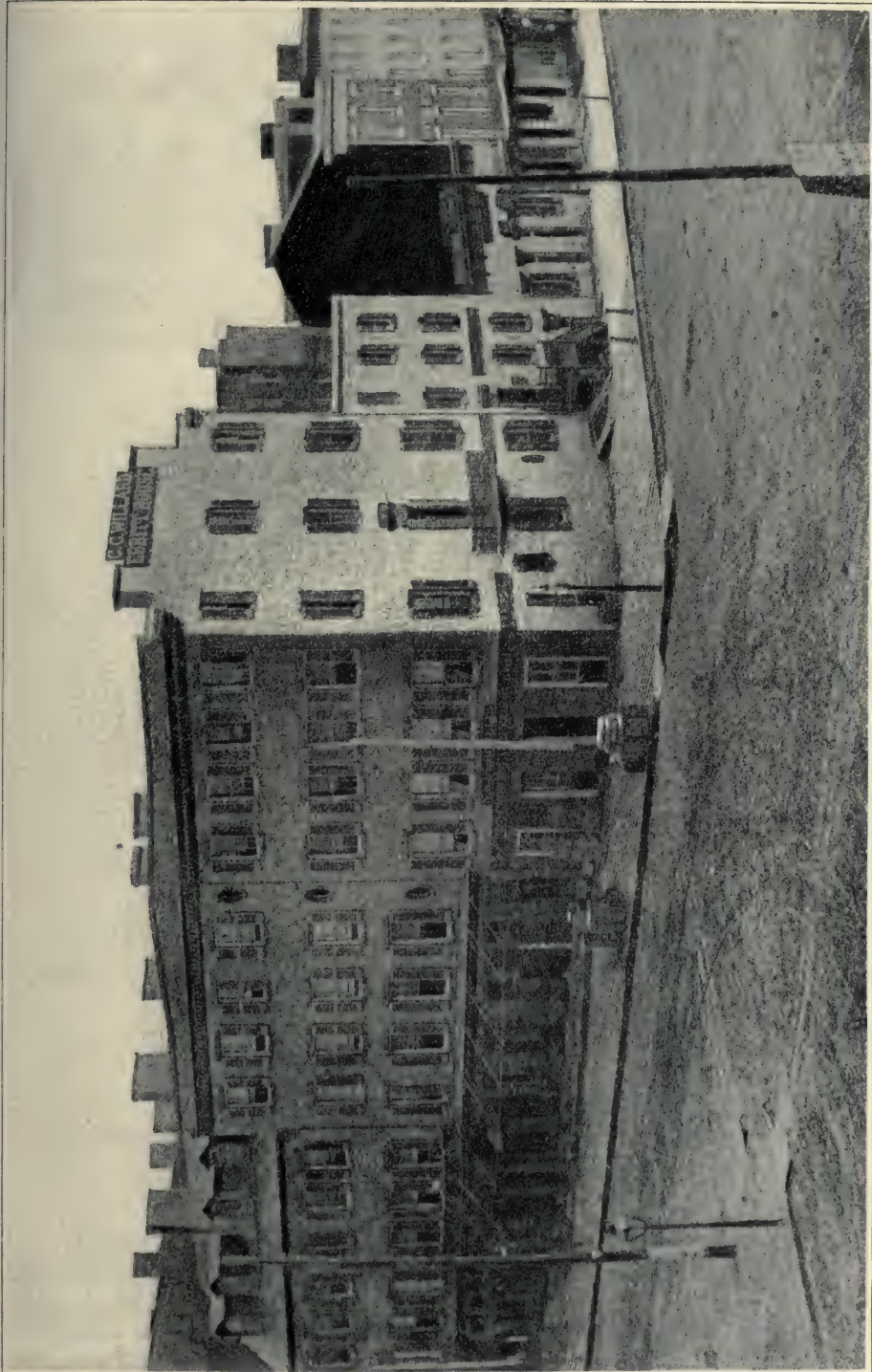


REMARKS OF JOHN B. LARNER BEFORE THE  
SOCIETY MARCH 10, 1902, IN EXHIBITING  
AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SOUTH-  
EAST CORNER OF 14TH AND F  
STREETS.

The photograph which I exhibit was taken during the month of November, 1865, and represents the southeast corner of Fourteenth and F Streets, northwest, in this city, as it appeared at that time, being then known as the Ebbitt House. The street at that corner shows the curved tracks of the Metropolitan Railroad Company turning from Fourteenth into F street over cobble-stone pavements with the old footings crossing the street at three angles.

There are also shown three telegraph poles, all of which are now removed, but, I regret to say, there is still a large pole on the northwest corner of the street in front of the present Wyatt Building. Leaning against one of the poles represented in the picture is a billboard upon which is posted, presumably, the theatrical attractions at the time, which method was in vogue then and for a long time subsequent thereto.

The Ebbitt House is composed of four dwellings, as can be plainly seen from the photograph. The first floor of the corner house is shown to be occupied by N. W. Burchell, grocer. Bushrod W. Reed occupied this store for the same purpose prior to N. W. Burchell. Mr. Reed came to the city of Washington in 1833 from Westmoreland County, Virginia. He purchased this corner and erected the building thereon, establishing himself in 1836 in the grocery business,



EBBITT HOUSE, SOUTHEAST CORNER OF FOURTEENTH AND F STREETS.  
From a photograph taken in November, 1865, in collection of John B. Larnier.





and remaining until he sold the building to C. C. Willard in 1864, when he removed to the southeast corner of 13th and F Streets, where he conducted business for some time. Afterwards he moved to the middle of the square on F Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth, at which place he remained until the time of his death. He was succeeded by his two sons, William B. and R. H. W. Reed, who continued the business for some years later. Both of these sons are now dead.

Mr. Burchell subsequently removed from the Ebbitt House and occupied the store room at No. 1332 F Street, being a part of the present Hooe Building, until that property was purchased by Mr. Willard, when he removed to the opposite side of the street, continuing in business until his death. The establishment is now conducted by his son, N. L. Burchell.

Perhaps the oldest house in this block is the one adjoining the corner. The dividing line is shown on the photograph by a series of oval windows which opened into bath-rooms constructed over a four-foot alley between the two houses. This house was a double dwelling built shortly after 1800 by David Craufurd, the original owner of this property, who obtained title to the same from the United States on the eighteenth day of June, 1798. The property afterwards became that of Sarah C., daughter of David Craufurd, who married Richard Forrest, reference to which has been made in the paper on "Richard Forrest and His Times" read before this society on the fourth of February, 1902, by Mrs. Kate Kearney Henry, granddaughter of Richard Forrest.

Prior to 1856 these buildings were known as the Frenchman's Hotel, for what reason I do not know, except I have been informed that they were kept by a

Frenchman. In 1856 this property was purchased by William E. Ebbitt from William J. Smith and then occupied as a boarding house conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Ebbitt, after whom the Ebbitt House was named. Mr. Ebbitt on the first day of September, 1863, conveyed the property to Albert H. Craney, his son-in-law, who afterwards, on the first of September, 1864, again conveyed the same to its present owner, Mr. C. C. Willard. Albert H. Craney was the same man who, for a long time, conducted what was known as the Craney Hotel at West Point, and was well known in army circles. He is now dead.

The first house below the corner on Fourteenth Street was for a long time occupied by the Reed family, but at the time of the taking of the photograph it was used for newspaper offices and the sign on the building is that of the *New York Times*. From this building down is a series of others, the last one of which shown on the photograph is the Occidental, now standing, but which will shortly be demolished to make way for a large office building.

Just north of the Occidental is the Farnham House, which was occupied at that time by the *New York Herald*. This property originally belonged to David Burns, descended to his daughter Marcia and was by her, in 1802, conveyed to William H. Dorsey. On May 16, 1818, William H. Dorsey conveyed the property to William Blanchard, whose son, Valentine Blanchard, was formerly the proprietor of the book store at the corner of Eleventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, the establishment being subsequently known as that of Blanchard & Mohun. In the settlement of the estate of William Blanchard, this property became that of his daughter, Mrs. Jane Farnham, who obtained title on the tenth day of July, 1850. October 4, 1866, the property was conveyed to Mr. C.



THE OCCIDENTAL.





C. Willard by Mrs. Farnham, the consideration being \$74,000, or about \$30 per square foot. It was sold at public auction, and Mr. Willard was the highest bidder at that figure. The Farnham House has had quite a history, and was occupied by many prominent men, including John Bell, of Tennessee, who, it is said, at one time paid as high as \$600 per month for the rooms which he occupied. This building was subsequently torn down, and the last three windows of the dining-room of the present Ebbitt House mark the site where it was originally located.

The two one-story buildings shown on the picture adjoining the Farnham House were also the property of Mr. Bushrod W. Reed, and were occupied by the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, the New York *Evening Post* and other newspaper offices, the names of which are not decipherable from the photograph. The buildings formed part of those subsequently known as Newspaper Row. The photograph does not represent the corner buildings as they existed in 1864, the time when they were purchased by Mr. Willard. He had, prior to the taking of the picture, raised the roofs of two of the buildings, which were originally three-story with dormer windows.

It is said that, on the lot upon which now stand the small buildings known as Nos. 1336 and 1338 F Street, immediately east of the Ebbitt House, in the rear, stood the home of Aaron Burr. There was a paling fence said to have been in front of the house with a small gate, through which the neighbors entered the yard to obtain water from a very fine well in the rear, which existed there at that time.

## OLD RESIDENCES AND FAMILY HISTORY IN THE CITY HALL NEIGHBORHOOD.

BY DOUGLASS ZEVELY.

(Read before the Society April 14, 1902.)

On the southeast corner of Third Street and Indiana Avenue, the father of Mr. W. W. Birth erected, in 1835, a one-story gable-roof building for store purposes, and the son was engaged there in the grocery business from December, 1848, until May, 1887. After he became the owner he changed the upper part, so as to give it a better appearance, and also made an addition on the south side for storage purposes. A sketch which Mr. Birth has made for me gives some idea of this corner as it looked when he discontinued business, which I hope to have changed to a perspective view later on for the Society's records. All this block, bounded by Second, Third and C Streets and Indiana Avenue, was part of the elder Birth's estate, and the eastern part was occupied up to about twenty-five years ago by Acker's stone yard. Soon after the present Mr. Birth gave up business he sold the Third Street corner to Trinity Church parish, and it is covered now by a parish hall, etc., in connection with the church. Mr. Birth's father died in 1844, but the venerable son, born January 11, 1808, is almost as active to-day as many men of 65 and 70. With the exception of his hearing, his faculties are unimpaired, and had he not been badly disabled some eight years ago by being struck by a street car, he would not have even weak limbs to complain of.



In September last he made a trip to Tennessee, a distance of 400 miles, to visit a grandson, and assured me on his return that he had not felt the effects any more than he would when he was forty years younger.

On the northeast corner of Third Street and Indiana Avenue there was a carpenter shop built by Almon Baldwin about 1846. He had associated with him his three sons, William, Edward and Clay, all of whom, as well as the father, are now dead. This building was of wood construction, and in these days would be considered a small affair, but it was well equipped with steam power and machine tools, and the firm did a very extensive business in contracts for buildings, as well as general carpenter work. Shortly after the war the firm had a more extensive establishment in the way of larger and more modern buildings on D Street between First and Second.

After the Baldwin firm left this corner it became the property of the late Calderon Carlisle, and he also acquired ground adjoining on the Indiana Avenue side. The buildings now there were erected for him, and the one on the corner, at present occupied partly by a drug store, still belongs to his estate. These buildings date from 1885.

The row of houses on the north side of D Street, east of 3d, was originally known as Mechanics Row, the name originating, so I am told, from the fact that several mechanics started with a combined capital in the building of them for investment. Among others who occupied them as far back as 1850, was Mr. George W. Phillips, for many years deputy marshal of the District, and a well-known resident of Washington for 71 years, up to the time of his death in December, 1895.

George W. Phillips was born in Prince George County, Md., and came to this city in 1824. After sev-

eral years' experience as a dry goods clerk he established a business of that kind for himself at the corner of Seventh Street and Market Space, where the Saks stores are now located, and continued that occupation until three or four years before Franklin Peirce became President, by whom he was appointed Deputy Marshal of the District under Jonah D. Hoover. This office he continued to hold until 1893, with the exception of the period when Frederick Douglass was Marshal. From his early manhood and throughout his lifetime Mr. Phillips was a staunch Democrat, but he was not numbered among those who were inclined to show noticeable hostility to the Government. His widow is still living, having her home here with the older son, who will be mentioned below; and the younger son, George R. Phillips, has also been a resident of the city since his childhood days.

Mr. Samuel L. Phillips, the older son, who was born in this city in 1838, and prominently connected with the street railway company in horse-car days, tells me when his father moved into the house, there were no houses on the south side of D Street in that block, but a deep ravine, supposed to be a continuation of one which came diagonally from Fourth and E Streets through to Third, just above D, ran through the block and was used as an open sewer. These houses, built in 1845 or '46, were originally two stories and an attic, with a basement, but some twenty years ago the attics were replaced by a full story. Mr. Andrew Coyle\* and Mrs.

\* Mr. Andrew Coyle was the father of Leonidas, Fitzhugh, and Randolph Coyle, and the house he occupied was built by Erasmus Middleton, a brother of D. Wesley Middleton, and for many years clerk of the Circuit Court. Mr. Middleton's home, for the most of his life, was near the south entrance to the Soldiers' Home grounds, where the Catholic University now stands.

Alexander Speir\* lived in the first house east of Third, and next door to them the late Otis C. Wight, father of our former Commissioner, Mr. John B. Wight. He afterwards lived on the south side of the street, a few doors west of Second. The next house was occupied from 1855 until after the war by Alexander W. Russell, who has been on the retired list of the Navy with the rank of Pay Director since February, 1886. He had made his home in Philadelphia for several years prior to that date, and he is still a resident of that city. Mr. Russell was born in Maryland in February, 1824; was a Captain's Clerk in the Navy from 1842 to 1844; had a military experience in Company C, mounted rifle regiment, under Captain Samuel H. Walker in the Mexican War, and was clerk to the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs from 1858 to '61. In the latter year he entered the Pay Corps of the Navy. His wife, the daughter of William H. Campbell, a well-known resident of this city in former years, is the sister of Mrs. F. L. Moore, who together with her husband, needs no introduction to this society or the community generally.

Mr. Russell's next-door neighbor was the late Cuthbert P. Wallach, who lived with his mother-in-law, Mrs. Beall, the mother of the late Robert Beall, who was for many years engaged in the book and stationery business on Pennsylvania Avenue near Sixth Street, his first experience in that line having been as a clerk in the same locality with Mr. Franck Taylor. Mr. Wallach, in 1850, was connected with the Marshal's office as a deputy, and, like his neighbor, entered the Pay Corps of the Navy in June, 1861. At the time of his death in May, 1895, Mr. Wallach had been on the retired list of that corps with the rank of Pay Director for fifteen years. He was born in the District, July 4,

\* Mr. Coyle's daughter.



1827. A son, Major Richard Wallach, U.S.M.C. (retired), lives in Brooklyn. A daughter is also living.

Next to the house where Mr. Wallach lived was the home (No. 221 D Street) of the Misses Koones, Celia and Lizzie, who conducted a school for girls there for twenty-five years. It was the most popular of the kind in this city in those days, and had for its patrons the best families of Washington. The ladies, both as teachers and otherwise, were very highly esteemed, and it is more than likely some here to-night may have been scholars there at one time. Miss Celia Koones died in November, 1869, but the sister continued the school for five years after that date. When she died in October, 1879, the house was inherited by a niece of the sisters, who is the wife of Dr. H. C. Thompson, a well-known member of the dental profession in this city.

Three or four doors east from this house there are two old-fashioned, English-basement houses, in one of which Mr. Charles Boteler lived. He was the original proprietor of the glass- and chinaware business on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Ninth and Tenth Streets, which had continued under the Boteler name for more than forty years when discontinued a few years ago. In the other the late Mr. William E. Howard lived for nearly thirty years from about 1851 or '52. Mr. Howard was a member of the Common Council in 1838 and also served as Tax Clerk for the city government in 1853. At the time of his death, January 2, 1888, he had been notary public for the Bank of Washington for forty years, and one of the directors for more than fifteen years. His second son, C. W. Howard, born in this city, has been Secretary of the Firemen's Insurance Company for thirty years, and one of the directors of the bank above mentioned since

1888. One other son, at present notary public for the bank, is still living; also two daughters. One of these is the wife of Rear Admiral Alexander H. McCormick, U.S.N. (retired), and the other, the wife of Captain George W. Pigman, U.S.N.\*

Adjoining the house where Mr. Howard lived is a three-story press-brick house which has not been changed to any extent since it was occupied by the builder, Dr. W. Berry, forty-five years ago.

On the northeast corner of Third and D Streets, with entrance on Third, there is a house which has not changed, excepting as to the entrance, since it was built by the late D. Wesley Middleton in 1831. It was his home prior to 1851 or '52, and my father was the next occupant until 1858, when Mr. Edwin Cecil Morgan rented the house and continued his residence there until his death in July, 1867.

Mr. Morgan, whose nephew, Dr. James Dudley Morgan, is so well known to this Society and in the medical profession, was born in this city, February 9, 1827, and at the time of his death, had been a prominent member of the District bar for several years. His office was in one of two small buildings which adjoined the old Fendall home and the site is now a part of the Fendall building. After Mr. Morgan's widow vacated this house in August, 1867, Mrs. Dr. Skillman, a daughter of Mr. Middleton's, became the occupant. Mr. Middleton was born in May, 1805, and had been a resident of this city for more than sixty years at the time of his death in April, 1880. He will be recalled as the Clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court during a long service of fifty-five years, his first appointment being as Deputy

\* The notice of Mrs. McCormick's death early in February, 1903, appeared in the daily papers while these pages were in the hands of the printer.

Clerk in 1825. His son and namesake is still a resident of this city, and he continues to occupy the old home of his parents in New Jersey Avenue south of the Capitol grounds.

In 1855 and until after the Civil War, Third Street north from D to E was all vacant ground on both sides; also on E from Third to Second. The first house built on either side of Third was built by Deputy Marshal Phillips on the west side, just south of E. Dr. G. L. Magruder, of whom I have very pleasant school-day recollections, was then living at 310 E Street.

Rittenhouse Academy, with a history particularly interesting among institutions of that kind in this city, dating back for sixty years, stood on the south side of Indiana Avenue adjoining a vacant lot on the corner of Third Street, which served as a playground for the scholars for many years. This ground on the avenue side is now covered by dwelling houses which were erected in recent years for the late Matthew G. Emery, and the Third Street side is also improved. In 1840 when the history of the academy began with Charles H. and Joseph E. Nourse as teachers, it was a one-story building. When the late Otis C. Wight became the proprietor in 1848 (or soon after) he had changes made so as to give another story and a basement, the latter being used for a primary department. In 1894, about the time Mr. Wight retired from his profession, after a long and honorable career, he sold the property to Dr. Henry L. Mann, who built two dwellings on the site. One of these was rented by Mr. Wight, and it was there he died in October, 1896, at the age of 79.

Among many others, who were once students at this academy, some of whom are now prominent residents of this city, it may be of interest to mention Mr. Wm. F. Mattingly, the well-known member of the District



bar; General John M. Wilson, U. S. Army (retired), at one time (his last active duty) Chief of Engineers; Dr. Wm. Pope Young, a representative Washingtonian, and now secretary of the Franklin Fire Insurance Company; P. W. Browning, the grocery merchant, and G. M. Oyster, equally prominent in business circles; also Mr. Noble D. Larner. These were scholars during the time the Nourse brothers had the school. I should have mentioned more particularly with Mr. Mattingly the name of Mr. Wm. A. Maury. Among those who were scholars in Mr. Wight's time, now prominent members of the bar, are Associate Justice Andrew C. Bradley; Andrew B. Duvall, and R. Ross Perry, Mr. F. B. McGuire; the sons of Jas. Y. Davis, Jas. Y. and Samuel T. (hatters, etc.), are among those who represent the business community, and Commander Adolph Marix, U.S.N.; Commander Martin E. Hall, U.S.N.; Colonel McLane Tilton, U. S. Marine Corps; Major Richard Wallach, U. S. Marine Corps, and Major Franck E. Taylor, U. S. Army, represent the naval and military service. Major Taylor was in the artillery branch of the army at the time of his death in November, 1886.

Adjoining these two houses is the home, now numbered 308, of Mrs. Virginia Whittlesey, widow of Comfort S. Whittlesey. It was first occupied by him in 1849 or '50 and it was still his home when he died, June, 1864. The house has remained unchanged until now, and Mrs. Whittlesey has retained her home there since her husband's death. She has living with her one daughter, and another daughter, Mrs. Sargeant, also lives in this city.

Mr. Whittlesey had, for many years, an extensive business in paints, oils, lamps, etc., his store having been located next to the southeast corner (or on that corner) of Seventh and D Streets, N. W., where there

has been a carpet and furniture store in more recent years.

Next to this house is a row of five houses built in 1852 by the late Thomas Blagden. William Baldwin, one of Almon Baldwin's sons, already referred to, was the architect of these houses, and they were known, when originally built, as Blagden's row. I think this name for them is still retained. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, at that time U. S. Senator, occupied one of these houses; also Chief Justice Taney, and the Minister from Peru to this country. In comparatively recent years Senator Christiancy, of Michigan, was an occupant of one of the houses.

Thomas Blagden was the son of George Blagden, who came from England and settled in this city in 1793, where the son was born in October, 1803, and he continued to have his home here until his death, February 2, 1870. Mr. Blagden's second wife is still living, also his two sons and one daughter. The widow and one of the sons have a home near the city, known as Argyle, and a portion of the original estate in that section has been improved in recent years by the construction of suburban homes. A brother of Mr. Blagden's—Rev. Geo. W. Blagden—settled in Boston early in the last century, and was at one time pastor of the "Old South Church."

While it is no new history for us to recall the hasty flight to the sunny South of many distinguished men like Robert Toombs, it may not be known to every one that he was numbered among those who obstinately declined to accept the amnesty offered by the government, conditional, of course, upon taking the oath of allegiance, and his feeling of bitter hostility to the government remained unchanged to the end of his life. His civil rights, therefore, were never restored; but

that did not seem to have blocked his pathway to prosperity, the practice of his profession of law proving so successful during the last eighteen years of his life that he left an estate valued at \$500,000. This might be cited by some persons as a case where the "way of the transgressor" was not as stated in the scriptural reading.

The second door west from this row, now numbered 322, was once the property and home of Rev. Horace Stringfellow, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church from 1840 to 1846. Early in the fifties he sold it to Jas. M. Torbert, who made his home there for nearly thirty years, up to the time of his death, in 1880. Mr. Torbert was born in Delaware in 1802, and became a resident of this city in 1831, and at the time of his death (1880) had been a clerk in the Treasury Department for forty years. His wife, born in Virginia in 1815, was the daughter of Mrs. Eliza Peyton, whose home will be mentioned on another page of this paper. Besides three sons there are also two daughters of Mr. Torbert still residents of the District, one at Bethesda and one in the city. Mrs. Torbert died here in 1860. The sons are also living in this city; the elder, John P. Torbert, having been a resident in the eastern section of the city for many years, and actively associated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church (now the pro-cathedral church of this diocese) since it was completed.

The next house to this on the west, numbered 324, is the one built by the late Franck Taylor in 1858 and has been the family home since 1860. After the death of Mr. Taylor, July 12, 1873, one of his daughters, the wife of Rear-Admiral Robley D. Evans, continued, with her mother, to make her home there, and it is still her home, Mrs. Taylor having died November 30, 1892. This house is built of brick, three stories and an attic,



with a generous width and depth, thus affording a very roomy and comfortably arranged dwelling, such as the owner particularly intended it should be. Mr. Taylor was born in Bolton-C-Moors, Lancashire, England, March 31, 1811, and had been a resident of Washington for forty-eight years at the time of his death. His book-store on Pennsylvania Avenue, a few doors east of the National Hotel, known as the "Waverly," was established in 1833 and continued by him as proprietor until 1867. The career of Mr. Taylor during his long residence in Washington is no doubt familiar, even to those who are not now much beyond the first half century of their life. Though never connected with the city government in any way, like some of his contemporaries, he was none the less one of the more highly esteemed business men and representative citizens of Washington; and the family have always been numbered with the most select social circles of the city.

Mr. Taylor's other daughter and her husband, Mr. F. B. McGuire, need only a mere mention in this paper, as they have been well-known residents of this community since their earliest years. Two of Mr. Taylor's three sons are still living, Rear-Admiral H. C. Taylor, U. S. Navy, and Major Daniel Morgan Taylor, of the Ordnance Corps, U. S. Army. The naval record of the former, as also that of Robley D. Evans, is one with which all are familiar, and Major Taylor of the Army also has a high standing in that branch of the service.

One of my most distinct recollections of the muddy condition of the streets in this city at that time, and as we all know, for many years after, is associated with the flag-stone crossings, one about in front of Mr. Taylor's house, and the other connecting the two sides of the street at Third. After a rainy spell or a few days of thawing weather it was not possible, even with careful

stepping on these flag-stones, to get through the mud without having the soles of the shoes well covered, and of course crossing on other than these flag-stones, mud would cover the shoe almost to the instep.

Before Mr. Taylor built his home there were two one-story frame buildings, on the lot adjoining, which were owned by Mr. Robert Beale, one of the old residents on Capitol Hill. Mr. Robert Beale was born in 1800 and became a resident of Washington in 1808. He was a member of the District bar during the earlier years of his life, but had not been in active practice for many years at the time of his death in 1866. Of his three sons, Mr. Buchanan Beale, the youngest, is the only one living. He has been connected with the U. S. Marshal's office of the District for a number of years. One of these buildings was occupied by Mr. Andrew McCalla (son of General John M. McCalla) who died many years ago. His brother, the late Dr. John M. McCalla, who died here in April, 1897, will be remembered during more recent years. His widow, daughter of the late Silas P. Hill, is still a resident of this city. The other of these buildings was occupied by Mr. Samuel L. Phillips in 1860, when he commenced the practice of law. The home of the McCalla family adjoined these buildings, but in recent years a different style of house with a bay-window front, has replaced the original dwelling.

John M. McCalla was born near Lexington, Ky., in 1793 and became a resident of this city in 1845, at which time he purchased the property (now numbered 330 Indiana Avenue) from Mrs. Joseph Wood, the wife of a prominent artist, for whom it was built in 1833. This continued to be his home until his death in 1873, with the exception of seven years (1848 to '55), a portion of which time it was rented to a Rev. Mr. Cushman, who conducted a ladies' school there.

When war with England was declared in 1812, Mr. McCalla, then but nineteen years old, was among the first to respond to the call for troops. He soon rose to the rank of adjutant and afterwards obtained the rank of brigadier general. In the report made by the commanding general of the actions of January 18 and January 22, 1813, he was named among those who had distinguished themselves in those battles. During his early life in this city Mr. McCalla was second auditor under the Polk administration, but after that time his profession was that of lawyer and claim agent. His son, Dr. J. M. McCalla, who had been a resident of Washington for fifty years at the time of his death, above mentioned, graduated in medicine, after a course at Columbia College, now known as Columbian University, but owing to ill health he was obliged to discontinue practice of his profession. His sister, Miss Maria F. McCalla, is still a resident of this city.

Next door to the McCalla home was where Mr. Charles S. Wallach lived early in the fifties, and until his death about twenty years ago. His eldest son was a dentist in Paris about 1880, but I have been unable to get further news of him. The two younger sons continued to be residents of this city until their death within the last ten years.

Next door to Mr. Wallach was where Mrs. Eliza Peyton lived from 1855 until her death in February, 1884. Prior to 1855 Mrs. Peyton conducted a very select boarding house on the corner (northwest) of Fourth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (then 4½ Street), where Reuter's Hotel now stands. Among those who lived with her there were Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, Henry A. Wise; also R. Y. Hayne, of South Carolina. Mrs. Peyton always had a very nice class of boarders with her, also, in Indiana Avenue. Among



others was Dr. John B. Blake and his son, Dr. Tucker Blake. The son was what (or similar to) we call in these days very dudish-like in his dress, which, in every respect—suit, hat, shoes and linen—was chosen with great taste and fitted with unusual exactness. He was of slender build and small stature, with a general appearance that attracted the attention of those who did not know him. In company, however, he was a very agreeable gentleman, and although he talked with a slight lisp and drawl, his conversation was pleasant and he was a welcome visitor in many of the nicest families.

Mrs. Peyton was born in Caldwell County, Maryland, in 1794. Her husband, Craven Thompson Peyton, was U. S. Consul at Matanzas, Cuba, in 1821, where he died during that year. About ten years later Mrs. Peyton became a resident of this city and continued to have her home here until her death as above stated. Her grandson, John B. Peyton, and great-grandson, John B. Peyton, Jr., also a widowed granddaughter, Mrs. Worth, are at present residents of this city.

Next to Mrs. Peyton's there are still standing two houses, one of which has been used for offices for several years. They are now numbered 336 and 338 and have remained unchanged since originally built.

These houses, I find by reference to old directories, were numbered at one time 1 and 3, and east from there two others were 13 and 15 Indiana Avenue, which indicates the reverse of the order in which east and west streets have been numbered since.

No. 336 of these two houses was built by the late General Peter Bacon more than sixty years ago, and it was his home from the time it was completed until his death on the eighth of April, 1900. Mrs. Bacon, a daughter of Dr. Edward Clark, was born at the Navy Yard in this city, and died in the old home May 10, 1897, aged

nearly seventy-nine years. The younger daughter continued to live there for a while after her father's death, when its history as the home of the Bacon family ended. General Bacon was a Washingtonian by birth and was nearly eighty-seven years of age when he died. His father came to this city from England when the seat of government was established here and started a grocery business on the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., which he purchased, the upper part being his home. To this business General Bacon, with his brother, Samuel Bacon, succeeded about 1840, and it was continued by them for more than fifty years. Besides being one of the representative business men of Washington, he was recognized early in life as possessing tact, good judgment and general ability, which won for him the highest esteem of his fellow citizens. In his younger days he was associated with a militia company—known, I think, as the Washington Blues—and when the Civil War began he was Brigadier General of the District militia. At that time—anxious days, as we all know, for the city as well as the country generally—General Bacon enjoyed the full confidence of the military authorities of the general government, his relations with Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, being of a confidential character, and the services he rendered, in consultation, as to plans for protection of the city were acknowledged as being of great value. Besides his career as above recited, General Bacon served as a member of the police board for ten years; also as a member of the fire board and as a school trustee.

The elder daughter of General Bacon, still a resident of this city, is the wife of Mr. John A. Baker, who has had until recent years an active business career here and is one of our well-known citizens.

General Bacon's next-door neighbor (house now numbered 338) was my uncle, Eben L. Childs, who had his home there for nearly twenty years prior to the close of the war. This house was built about the same time as the Bacon house. Mr. Childs was born in Charlestown, Mass., in May, 1800. His first wife, Sarah P. Larkin, daughter of Samuel Larkin, was born in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1810. In 1831 Mr. Childs received an appointment in the Post-Office Department, and his service there was continuous until his death in October, 1872. During that time (latter part) he was for several years Chief Clerk of the contract division, and also Chief Clerk of the Department for three years. His only child, the Rev. Wentworth Larkin Childs, who died in 1860 at the age of thirty-three, was the first rector of St. Alban's Protestant Episcopal Church, now, as then, located on the Rockville turnpike, near Woodley Lane. Mrs. Childs died in this city in February, 1871. Dr. Wm. J. C. Duhamel, who had been a resident of Washington for many years up to the date of his death in August, 1883, occupied this house after my uncle vacated it, and I think he was the last one who occupied it as a dwelling.

Mr. Childs' neighbor for eleven years prior to 1864 was the late Rev. Byron Sunderland, and he lived there again for awhile after his return in 1866 from a residence in Paris. This house, though closely adjoining the Childs house, is the first one on D Street west from Fourth Street, while those located east of it are on Indiana Avenue. The house was built by Thomas Blagden.

On the southeast corner of D and 4½ Streets (now John Marshall Place) where the Fendall Law Building now stands, was the home of Philip Ricard Fendall for twenty-two years, until his death in February, 1868.



The present structure on this site dates from 1886, but the home of the family was continued there until that time.

Mr. Fendall was born in Alexandria, Va., in 1794 and was admitted to the bar in that city about 1820, while it was still a part of this District. A few years after that he became a resident of Washington, and was one of the most eminent lawyers of his day. From 1841 to '45 and again from 1849 to '53 Mr. Fendall held the office of District Attorney.

The eldest son of Mr. Fendall, Philip R., Jr., entered the U. S. Marine Corps in 1857, and had been on the active list with the rank of Major, for eight years, when placed on the retired list in May, 1878. He died in this city in March, 1879. The second son (Wm. Y.), who died here in November, 1871 (born here in 1836) became, like his father, a prominent member of the District bar, and suitable action taken by the Bar Association, giving details of his career, is included in the Bibliography of the District, compiled by Mr. Bryan, so well known and active as a member of this society. Two other sons, Arthur and Stratford, have been dead many years, and the remaining son, the late Reginald Fendall, died while temporarily in New York city, February 22, 1898. Reginald Fendall was born in this city March 6, 1845, and during his comparatively short life had become, like his father and brother, one of the leading members of the District bar. When asking advice during the summer of 1896, regarding a publication of interest to the legal profession, the late Walter D. Davidge told me that he considered Mr. Fendall's character, both personally and professionally, as fully equal to that of any one he knew in this community. It is hardly necessary to say no one who had lived here as long as Mr. Davidge had, was better able to judge

in such a matter. As a personal reminiscence of Mr. Fendall I can recall our mutual friendship as the most pleasant one among those I formed during my school-day life and it is a special pleasure now to recall our exchange of cordial greetings at intervals during the later years of his life.

House numbered 307 D Street, which overlooks the statue of Albert Pike that was unveiled last October, was built for the late James Mandeville Carlisle during the year 1852. It is a plain-front press-brick structure, three stories in height, with an extension on the west of two stories, setting back from the building line, the first floor of which Mr. Carlisle used as an office. Here he continued to have his home and office from the time the house was completed until his death in 1877, at which time he had been a resident of the city for fifty-two years. Until the spring of 1887 there was only one house between Mr. Carlisle's house and Third Street, which I very well remember was occupied during the ten years prior to 1860 by the Rev. C. M. Butler for a time and also by John F. Clark, who was a well-known patent attorney in those days.

This house had a front that was called "pebble-dashed"—an appearance of rough mortar and pebbles mixed. The home of Rear-Admiral Wilkes, where the Cosmos Club now stands, corner of Madison Place and H Street, had the same sort of appearance. Richard S. Coxe, a distinguished lawyer of this city fifty years ago, once lived in the house in D Street, and had his office there, and it was in his office that Mr. James M. Carlisle was a student.

Mr. Richard Weightman, a grandson of Mr. Coxe, and his sisters, Miss Weightman and Mrs. Frankland Jannus, are at present residents of this city.

On the site of this house and other ground between

the Carlisle house and Third Street the widow of Mr. Carlisle built in 1887 the three houses which are now there. Up to 1820 or 1822 the same ground including the home of Mr. Carlisle and east to New Jersey Avenue and north to about F Street was the farm of Moses Young, who was related to Robert Brent, the first mayor of this city. His house was about where the Carlisle house is now, and Mr. Birth has told me that the pump in front of the drug store—229 Indiana Avenue, corner of Third Street—has been supplied with water all these years by the same spring which belonged to the Moses Young farm. I have recently had the pleasure of testing its clearness and coldness after an interval of forty years and can testify to its being as refreshing as ever.

The house on the Moses Young farm was occupied for a time, after Mr. Young's death, by Major Bailey, his son-in-law. After his death the mother of James M. Carlisle was a tenant, but I have been unable to ascertain whether or not she owned it, or to gather more of its history after the time Mrs. Carlisle occupied it.

Mr. Birth, in his reminiscences published last fall in the *Star*, speaks of a murder committed by a soldier on Pennsylvania Avenue near Seventeenth street some few years prior to 1822, and says that the place selected for the hanging of the murderer was in the center of the Square bounded by Second and Third and D and E Streets.



## THE BRADLEY FAMILY AND THE TIMES IN WHICH THEY LIVED.

BY CHARLES S. BRADLEY.

(Read before the Society May 12, 1902.)

In preparing this paper I have been embarrassed by the fact that there has never been a chronicler in our family, nor have I ever heard of a member of it who kept a diary. The old folk who saw the beginnings of the city as the seat of government a century ago, and were associated with its early history, were all permitted to depart this life without it having occurred to any one to interview them, with the purpose of jotting down their reminiscences, and thus much that would have been interesting and entertaining to our generation was never recorded. For lack of such record I find my resources limited mostly to rather dry and matter-of-fact material, and regret that my paper will necessarily be more nearly biographical than illustrative of the times. I hope it will not seem very tedious.

The brief sketch which I am invited to give relates to the families and descendants of two brothers, Abraham and Phineas Bradley, who settled in this city early in the century just completed—Abraham,\* the elder of the two, coming in May, 1800, and having in charge the removal of the General Postoffice Department from Philadelphia to Washington, and Phineas in 1801, having accepted a position in the same department.

These two brothers (and three sisters who resided elsewhere) were the children of Abraham Bradley, the

\* My grandfather.

third of his name in direct line of descent from ancestors who came from England and settled in Guilford, Conn., in 1639. As this progenitor (Abraham) spent the later years of his life with his sons in this city, and was much interested in its growth and development, perhaps a brief mention of him will not be inappropriate, especially as he was a man of unusual physical and mental vigor and activity, and an alert and intelligent observer and student of affairs. He owned no property here, aside from being a stockholder in the old Bank of Washington, but he bequeathed his sterling character and abilities to his two sons, who gave the best part of their lives to the establishment, on firm and business-like foundations, of one of the great departments of the government.

In a note made by himself, at the age of eighty-eight, in an old family Bible, he humorously records that he had been "a man of various enterprises; an inhabitant of the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia; a surveyor of land, master of vessel, select-man, town treasurer, representative in the state legislature, justice of the peace, a *zealous Whig*, captain in the Revolutionary War, judge of the court, town clerk, and something of a scribbler in prose and verse; and at this time living at Clover Hill (Washington, D. C.) and hoping to see many happy days yet." Clover Hill there mentioned was the country seat of his son Phineas.

An obituary notice of him which appeared in the *Village Record* at West Chester, Pa., in August, 1824, and was written by the Hon. Chas. Miner, editor and owner of the paper—an old friend of Mr. Bradley—says of him, among many other things, that "During the whole of his long life after he came to manhood,

Mr. Bradley took an active part in the discussion of the most interesting political questions which from time to time arose and agitated the public mind. As a writer he was clear and methodical, his style easy and flowing, his language correct, and his manner sprightly; so that his essays, distinguished by their good sense, happy illustration and agreeable manner, were always popular; and as his principles were sound, and his views liberal, they were the means of doing much good. A volume published at the age of seventy years entitled 'A New Theory of the Earth,'\* displayed research, acuteness of thinking, and much ingenuity in reasoning. Poetry was the amusement of his idle hours. His versification was sweet and free, and the writer of this notice was always proud to enrich the columns of this journal with the sprightly productions of his pen. . . . Thus his life was actively and usefully spent, much of it in the public service, and the evening of his days was cheered by the kindest and most delicate attention of his children. Of incorruptible integrity, benevolent in his feelings, he lived respected and beloved to an age rarely attained."

Among the many products of his pen in the family archives, I beg to quote from only two or three letters written from Washington to his daughters. One, dated October 8, 1816, in his eighty-fifth year, says, speaking of the religious sects of this city:

"We have here a variety. 1. The Roman Catholic Church. This is the largest congregation and embraces nearly all of the foreign inhabitants: Mr. Mathews is the priest. We have two Episcopalian Churches, about two miles apart. Mr. McCormick is the parson of that on Capitol Hill and derives his principal support from a common school which he teaches. The other, situated near the President's House, is a new build-

\* A copy of which is in the Library of Congress.



ing—no parson at present. Two Presbyterian Churches about as far apart. The one is near the Capitol—Parson Breckenridge has been and perhaps may be the pastor, but being of rather a fickle turn it is doubtful. He is sometimes elsewhere, and derives his support chiefly from his farm—or rather his wife's. Of the other, Dr. Laurie is the pastor. He is of the *Ceceder* sect, so much stiffer in point of holiness as not to communicate with the common Presbyterians. He derives his support chiefly from a clerkship he holds in the Treasurer's office. One Baptist Church—Parson Brown. He also is a clerk, and a very good one, in the General Postoffice, and has of late acquired a number of proselytes. One Methodist Church erected last year at the sole expense of Mr. Foxall, the Government cannon founder. It is a very decent edifice.\* I believe they have no settled preacher, but the Methodist you know are all preachers. Mr. Foxall himself sometimes officiates. And we have one small Quaker Church. These are all plodding along in their various routes to Heaven—many of them in a careless manner, but each one in the road of his own selection. The roads to those delectable regions are very numerous. The Christians, ancient and modern, have found out about two hundred already. New sects are frequently springing up, and will in all probability double the number, for every one being at liberty to put his own construction on the Sacred Text, they find ample matter for setting out on new courses."

Again:

"The Doctor [Phineas] and his family attended a great camp meeting on Sunday, held about nine miles from Clover Hill. There was a great concourse of people. The whites and blacks had distinct apartments, and different conversion pens; these pens were littered with straw for the new converts to flounce upon during their frantic fits. The greatest order and regularity was observed except respecting those who were tormented between the pangs and convulsions of

\* This was, I understand, the Foundry Church, at the corner of G and 14th Streets.

hope and fear. During the agitations of the new birth the greatest indulgence was allowed, in which the distressed souls, all agonized, appeared frantic, and rose up, fell down, wallowed on the straw, sang, groaned, and prayed, with trickling eyes and distorted countenances. Our people none of them had the misfortune of being converted and returned home a little after sunset, all safe and sound."

Another letter, written March 16, 1819, in his eighty-eighth year, says:

"Congress is now drawing to a close, and must inevitably leave a great deal of unfinished business for the next session. They have wasted much time on the question of the Seminole War, merely to determine whether General Jackson's conduct was to be approved or condemned, on which they were nearly equally divided; but those who approved ultimately prevailed. The Senate condemned by a large majority, and had the House had the same evidence, there is no doubt the Representatives would have done likewise; but although they debated long upon it, the most material evidence was never produced before them. . . . They have raised the salaries of the heads of departments and Judges of the Supreme Court to \$6,000, the Postmaster General to \$4,500, and the Assistant Postmasters to \$2,500 each, which is an addition to Assistants of \$800 and to Postmasters of \$900. This has rekindled the malice of D. and he is spitting out his venom by the wholesale. But that fellow is already so famous for falsehood and malice that his invectives are totally disregarded. His pen is too contemptible to produce scandal; and as

The Devil never feels in trim  
But when in lies and scandal busy,  
The *Aurora* man is just like him  
And in fact a Junior Devil is he.

High living, furniture, dress and etiquette are the order of the day. The more a man gets, the more he spends, and many who have a competent income are continually running into debt and bankruptcy. Those who cannot afford it are anxious

to make an equal show with those who can; and the one half of the salaries public officers get, would, aside from ostentation, be just as good for them as the whole."

The following letter was not received until the day after this paper was read, but is made a part of the record. It was sent to me by the secretary of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society of Wilkesbarre, Pa., and was written to Judge Jesse Fell, of Wilkesbarre.

WASHINGTON CITY, August 1, 1815.

*Dear Sir:*

Not all the debilities incident to a state of superannuation have yet effaced from my mind the recollection of my good old friends. I have often had it in contemplation to write you, and as often neglected. And when the additional tax of fifty per cent. was attached to postage, it seemed to present a new obstacle. And this our wise heads and war hawks saw proper to blend with the other enormous taxes which necessarily resulted from Madison's holy war for free trade and sailors' rights, all which were totally overlooked and forgotten in the Treaty of Ghent.

This I take the opportunity of transmitting by my grandson, Abraham B., 3d. And here I cannot forbear to mention the satisfaction I enjoy in the prosperity of my children. My two sons are doing well. And I have here also three grandsons, Abraham, William and Eleazur (Lindsley) all (separately) well established in business, and five younger ones coming on, and about as many granddaughters.

Washington City has, like the Phenix, risen again from its ashes. It is considered that the seat of government is permanently fixt. The inhabitants seem to be inspired with new life and energies; more than ever engaged in trade, many new houses building, and many more would be but for the scarcity of materials. The value of property has taken a great rise both in the city and its vicinity. Many architects, mechanics and laborers are employed in rebuilding the public edifices, and the Navy Yard. The Navy Yard, it is said,



Commodore Stewart has in charge, as also the building of two ships of war.

The Congress, Public Offices and Navy Yard all tend, and nearly equally, to the emolument of the city. A steamboat now plies between the city and Fredericksburg in Virginia. She goes and comes every day and rests several hours at each landing, uniformly calling at Alexandria. The cities of Alexandria and Georgetown both display much more energy in trade than Washington, and equally as much in building houses and stores. . . . Marstellaer, late cashier of the Merchants' Bank in Alexandria, being about the close of the war, employed by government to build Fort Washington (8 miles below) upon a large scale, has been detected in exhibiting a fraudulent account amounting to \$120,000 more than he could produce vouchers for; his villainy was discovered and proved last week, and he absconded. Public frauds are discovered very frequently. You have doubtless seen the account of James Whittlesey, State of N. Y., an agent of the government, who had announced that he had been robbed of \$40,000, and that his bail afterwards found hidden in his own house between two beds. And the *Gleaner* informs us that Joseph Von Sick, Commissioners' Clerk in Luzerne County had been detected and committed for robbing the archives of obsolete county orders and passing them off for his own emolument. What will not democracy do? Surely these among many other instances of democratic fraud, must have a powerful tendency to establish the integrity of Federation. We begin to look out, with some degree of anxiety for news from the contending powers of Europe. Murat has already gone over the dam; and it is to be hoped the Corsican bloodhound may soon meet with a similar fate. But this must depend much on the sentiments of the French nation; if any sentiments they have that are permanent. For if France is united in favor of Bonaparte, the allies cannot conquer it; but if France is divided, the allies will conquer Napoleon and his army. It is to be feared that rivers of blood must be shed in the contest.

We had a hard winter, a cold and dry spring, and the summer extremely hot and dry. Our gardens are nearly destroyed with the drought: and unless we are favored very soon with plenteous rains, little or no corn can come to maturity. Indian corn is 125 to 150 cents per bushel, and the present crops look gloomy in the extreme. General health prevails in this country since warm weather came on, but in the cold season the epidemic which has ravaged almost every section of the United States was very rife, and swept off great numbers on every side of us, but it was our good fortune to escape it. I have enjoyed a very comfortable state of health from my first arrival. Although I passed my 84th year in a climate deemed moderate, it had like to have been too much for me.

Your friend and most obedient

ABRAHAM BRADLEY.

Abraham Bradley died at the ripe age of ninety-three, and was buried at Verona, N. Y. His two sons were so intimately associated with the beginnings and development of the General Postoffice Department, and it was such a large part of their life that I may be pardoned for linking them together in this paper. Abraham Bradley, the elder of the two, was Associate Justice of Luzerne County, Pa., and residing in Wilkesbarre, when Col. Timothy Pickering, who held the office of prothonotary of the same town, was appointed Postmaster General by President Washington in 1791, and requested Mr. Bradley to accompany him to Philadelphia as his confidential clerk. A friend writing of him, says: "Abraham Bradley was an unassuming man, modest and retiring almost to diffidence, yet a lawyer of competent learning, with a clear and discriminating mind, and an industry that knew no relaxation when there was a duty to be performed; and a more valuable officer could not have been selected by Col. Pickering,

who was an excellent judge of human nature.” He (Abraham Bradley) soon removed to Philadelphia to enter upon the duties of his appointment. The year 1800 was the time set for the removal of the departments of the Federal government to Washington, and Mr. Bradley, having been appointed First Assistant Postmaster General in 1799, was entrusted with the transfer of the General Postoffice Department from Philadelphia.

A number of letters I copied from the files of the General Postoffice would be interesting, as indicating the times and the characteristics of the writer, but as they relate more directly to the department and hence are not appropriate here, I will quote from two or three only, giving first impressions. In a letter dated June 2, 1800, he says:

“We arrived here on Friday last\* having had a pleasant journey so far as we traveled by daylight. We stopped one day to rest at Baltimore (where we found Mr. Burrall in good health and spirits and performing his business much at his ease). Capt. Stevenson, with whom I agreed for a house before my arrival, was not ready to give possession, and the house was not convenient for us. I have therefore taken a large three-story house within a few rods of Blodgett’s Hotel, which will accommodate the office, and my family, and the Postmaster’s office; it is about equidistant from the President’s House and from the Capitol. It is impossible that all the people attached to the publick offices should be accommodated with houses; the few that have been let are at rents none under two hundred and fifty and three hundred dollars. Provisions are plenty, good enough, and cheaper than in Philadelphia. You can buy a peck of field strawberries for a five-penny bit; garden berries at 11 c. a quart. Vegetation is at least two weeks earlier here than in Philadelphia. For myself I do not regret the removal: the situation of the city

\* May 29th it was.



is beautiful and the season is extremely pleasant. . . . The President has not yet arrived."

Another letter, nine days later, June 11, 1800, to Jos. Habersham, Postmaster Philadelphia, says:

"We have not been able to open the office and to accommodate business until to-day. I left Philadelphia Wednesday the 27th day of May and arrived here on the evening of the 29th. The President left Philadelphia the 26th and arrived at Georgetown the first of June. The situation of the city is extremely pleasant and it will probably become the greatest city in America. . . . I have not been able to learn whether any house has been taken for your family, and have therefore been obliged to store your furniture in Georgetown. We have taken Dr. Crocker's house for this office—close by the great hotel—and for my family, at \$600 a year; the apportionment of the rent I shall leave to you; it appears to me that \$200 is as much as I ought to pay for a house. Our office is kept on the second floor, which contains one large room and two small ones; the largest is  $27 \times 17$  ft. and the smallest are each  $15 \times 14$  ft. . . . We have a flood of business on hand at this time, and our removal has put us a month in arrears. It took us a week to prepare to move, load &c, and will take us another week to get our things in proper order. Mr. Webster is employed here: Mr. Craven keeps the books, and I shall employ another person to assist us a few weeks or until you return."

June 12, 1800:

"No place can be more pleasantly situated than this for a large city; it has however been commenced on such an extensive scale that it will be long before it has the appearance of a town. There are about 500 houses extended over about ten square miles, so that they are very much scattered."

June 13, 1800, in answer to some complaint as to the non-establishment of a post route, he writes:

"You have probably noticed that there are already about 720 postoffices in the United States, and two or three hundred

more must be established on the post roads designated by Congress.”

(At the close of the fiscal year 1900 there were 76,688 postoffices in the United States, or about one to every 1,000 inhabitants.)

Abraham Bradley in early life married Miss Hannah Smith, of Pittston, Luzerne County, Pa., a lady of old Colonial stock, Christian culture and sterling character, whose tastes sympathized with his own.

Their first residence after removing to Washington was at the house rented from Dr. Crocker at the northeast corner of Ninth and E Streets, which served for a time as their home and the Postoffice Department. Then he removed to a house on Seventh Street between E and F, east side, which was torn down many years ago and replaced by a more modern building. Later he resided at the southeast corner of Twelfth and Maryland Avenue, S. W., a house afterwards occupied by Dr. Morgan—a section of the city which, like that toward the Arsenal point, had hopes and ambitions which were never realized. In 1814 he purchased from Philip Barton Key and John W. Clagett, 218 acres of the tract then and since known as Chevy Chase, and in 1818 acquired fifteen acres more. Here he raised his family in peace and comfort, found retirement for his favorite studies, relaxation from the cares and burdens of his busy life; and here entertained in quiet and cordial hospitality his friends and relatives. It is said that in 1814 when the British took possession of Washington, several members of the cabinet went into seclusion at Chevy Chase for a day or two, and that valuable records of the Postoffice and other departments were temporarily hidden there until the Red Coats retired across country.

Dr. Phineas Bradley, the brother, was a practicing physician in Wilkesbarre, Pa., when Abraham removed to Washington, and in 1801 followed him to this city to accept a position in the same department, where, seventeen years later, he also received the appointment of Assistant Postmaster General. He had married Miss Anna Jones, from Chemung, N. Y., a lady "distinguished for her amiable qualities and personal beauty." He acquired considerable property in this city, but up to to-day I have not satisfactorily located his city residences, though the information will come later.

In 1809 he purchased from John Dixon a tract northeast of the city called "Powell's Dividend," which he renamed Clover Hill. It is now occupied by Glenwood Cemetery. (It seems the humor of fate that the country seat of the more jovial and social of the brothers should become a cemetery, while that of the retired student and philosopher should be now the house of the fashionable Country Club and favorite golf links of Washington.) Dr. Bradley lived at Clover Hill until 1839, when he sold it; and after several transfers it became, in 1854, the property of the Glenwood Association. The quaint old farm house in which Dr. Bradley lived for thirty years, and where he often entertained Henry Clay and other worthies of that day, still stands in the northeast corner of the grounds; and a week ago I strolled through the ancient parlor, and looked into the antiquated store-room and cupboard and could almost imagine I detected a faint aroma of refreshing sundries such as were so often served in the long ago to please the palate of the welcome visitor.

Thus the two brothers in their charming old country places lived in the unconventional, informal and comfortable way characteristic of the times when life was



less hurried and strenuous, when social burdens pressed less heavily, good living was cheaper, and good fellowship more common; and found relaxation from the cares, worries and burdens of their responsible positions—and only a glance at the correspondence in the old books of the Postoffice Department will give one an adequate idea of what those burdens were—in the general clamor for postoffices and mail delivery in a growing country, pulsating with new life and energy, and amid a restless, pushing, impatient people, requiring of the heads of the departments the greatest patience, good judgment, firmness, quick decision and justice.

The brothers, being Federalists, were among the first victims to the new war cry “To the victors belong the spoils” which ushered in the Jackson administration.

Abraham Bradley died in 1838 and Phineas in 1845. I will beg to quote a few brief paragraphs from a very kindly and appreciative obituary notice which appeared in the July 31, 1845,\* issue of the *National Intelligencer*. After giving a sketch of their lives it says:

“Appointed by Pickering, it need hardly be said they were both Federalists—Federalists of the old school; but mingling the rarest prudence with the most free and unreserved expression of their opinions, they passed the ordeal of all the Administrations without scath—a matter alike honorable to themselves and to the Democratic gentlemen who were called to rule over them. . . . Thus it may be said that the Post-office Department from infancy to childhood, from childhood up to the full growth, expansion and power of manhood was nursed, brought up and educated under the superintendence of Abraham and Phineas Bradley; and the merits and blessings of that great establishment are more especially theirs than any other persons who have yet lived—not meaning in

\* Having been copied from the Wilkesbarre *Advocate* of July, 1845, and written by the same loyal friend, Hon. Chas. Miner, who also wrote the obituary of their father.

the slightest degree to detract from the merit of the various and eminent heads of the departments. . . . Abraham Bradley was a book man; in his hours of leisure loved study, talked philosophy and metaphysics, was fond of abstruse speculation, and wrote well on every subject on which he chose to employ his pen. As a more active recreation agriculture was his delight. Extremely domestic, moderate in all his wants and expenditures, he ought to have had a fortune; but after the education of a fine family of children, he left but a moderate independence. . . . Dr. Phineas Bradley on the other hand, was thoroughly read in the great books of human nature. Man he had studied to advantage, and rarely was there a person who understood his subject more thoroughly. There was no affectation of graceful manners or fashionable politeness about him, but he met you with a cordial shake of the hand and cheerful Good morning. Perfectly master of the topics of the day, you would seldom meet a more intelligent gentleman or interesting companion. . . . Neither of them was a diner out, nor a giver of parties, an attendant upon levees or seen as courtiers at the houses of the great. Each at home, living in elegant simplicity, their hospitable tables were always well set and open with cordial welcome to such friends as might happen in."

Dr. Phineas Bradley had several children, but only two survived him, a son and daughter. The daughter married Rev. Levin I. Gilliss, the first rector of Ascension Church, who remained many years in that pulpit and was revered and loved by his people. They had but one child, known to many of this association in recent years as Mrs. Marianne A. B. Kennedy, and who died in December last at her late residence, 1630 Rhode Island Avenue. An ardent member of the Epiphany Church, to which her affections and service were given without stint, she was beloved by a large circle of friends for her amiable qualities and bright, generous disposition.

The son, William A. Bradley, was somewhat of a prominent figure in this community. Born in 1794 and coming with his father to Washington in 1801, he commenced active life as runner in the Bank of Washington, and subsequently became president of that bank. He was also afterwards president of the Patriotic Bank and of the Franklin Insurance Company, and was director in the latter from the date of its organization in 1818. He was at one time mayor of the city, and was for many years a heavy mail contractor, under the United States government, running nearly all the mail routes south of Washington. During the administrations of Presidents Taylor and Fillmore, 1849 to '53, he was city postmaster. He married Miss Sidney Ann Thruston, daughter of Judge Thruston (and sister of Mrs. Admiral L. M. Powell). They had four children, three of whom married, but only one had issue, and there is but one living descendant of Wm. A. Bradley—Mrs. Theo. Dewey, wife of Lieutenant Theo. Dewey, U.S.N.

Mr. Wm. A. Bradley in 1835 purchased Analostan Island, the old home of General and Mrs. Mason, long known as a garden spot and also for the hospitality and social prominence of its owners in years gone by. I do not know how long Mr. Bradley resided there. Later he built the double house on Maryland Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets, now occupied by the Sisters of Charity of St. Dominic's Church, where he resided for some years, and there often entertained Mr. Webster and other men well known in Congress and the District. My earliest recollections of him are when he had, still later, removed to the house on Louisiana Avenue, one door east from the present office of the District Commissioner and where he dispensed his hospitality freely and enjoyably to himself and others. It was a



time of quiet as well as convivial good living—the day of ante-meridian juleps, post-prandial cordials and post-meridian punches; and then, as now, many matters of public interest and importance were discussed and decided over the cup that warms in winter and cools in summer (same cup, with ice in it for both seasons). 'Tis said the selection of Washington as the seat of government was a shrewd deal between Hamilton and Jefferson over “a dinner with punch and Madeira,” and that even with that assistance it was passed by a majority of only two in the House and three in the Senate. There is a legend of mellow tint and pleasant memory in the minds of some old citizens, that Mr. Wm. A. Bradley had a peculiar brand and brew of seductive flavor which has not since been excelled in originality and aroma by the most skillful members of army and navy clubs, some of whom have been celebrated, in confidential circles, for individuality and positive genius in compounding beverages which have been known to inspire a flow of soul at feasts of reason. It may be, however, that this particular compound of pleasant memory was but an original variation on the prevailing punch. I think it is Mr. Ben Perley Poore who mentions a “Daniel Webster Punch” which was “made of Medford rum, brandy, champagne, arrack, maraschino, strong green tea, lemon juice and sugar.” The proportions are not given, doubtless in order to leave something to the imagination and originality of the compounder.

Abraham Bradley had eight children, three of whom, Joseph, Henry and Charles Bradley, were more or less identified with the history and business interests of this city. Henry married Miss Mary Prout, and commenced active life in Washington in the dry goods business, his partner being a Mr. Catlett. He subse-

quently gave up this business, and bought a farm in Montgomery County, where he prospered, and having always property interests in Washington, attained to a comfortable competence. His four children married, and their families are living in Washington and in Montgomery County. The later years of his life were spent in this city, and his home was in one of two comfortable buildings he erected on Third Street just above E, N. W. He was a man of sterling integrity, pure life and Christian character.

Joseph H. Bradley, born in 1802, and a graduate of Yale College, was a well-known member of the bar of this city for many years. His long residence here gave him a wide acquaintance among the business men of Washington, and he was almost an encyclopedia of business law as practiced here, and became one of the most successful pleaders before a jury. He was connected with many prominent cases both in the lower and the United States Supreme Court, and ought to have accumulated a competence, but had raised and educated a large family, lived freely and hospitably, always had dependents who imposed upon his generosity, and he did much law business without compensation—being too kind-hearted to demand just and proper remuneration for his services from those of limited means, and too lenient in exacting his dues from those who were deeply indebted to him. He succeeded to the Chevy Chase farm, and it was to him as it had been to his father, a haven of rest—a little paradise; he loved its fields and woods, and knew every rock and shrub about it; and my father, Charles Bradley, always shared his love for the old place. To them no water was so pure or sweet as that out of the old well and drunk from the cocoanut dipper; no breakfasts to compare with the famous corn pone and inimitable codfish balls, and fragrant coffee

made by the old colored cook Sunday mornings; no air so entrancing as that gently wafted in through the open windows in early summer mornings, fragrant with the odor of flowers and shrubs and dew-laden grass; and no paintings so exquisite as the sunsets over the—now—golf links! An ideal old country home, full of sweet memories, associated with love, romance, happy hours and open hospitality, when the sons and daughters were just grown and all were full of life and animation.

Mr. Bradley in early life married Miss Lucy Tuttle, of New Haven, who died about fifteen years before her husband. He sold Chevy Chase only a short time before his death, which occurred in 1887. His children all married, but have all passed away; there are seven grandchildren living.

Charles Bradley, my father, the last of the family mentioned, was the youngest of Abraham Bradley's children and born in 1816. He began his business life in the dry goods store of his brother Henry, and later became bookkeeper in the Patriotic Bank and secretary of the Franklin Insurance Company, which latter position he retained during his life. When the National Bank of the Republic was organized in 1865 he became cashier of that bank and retained that position until his death in 1881. He was connected with several other corporations. He married Miss Catharine Coyle, daughter of Andrew Coyle, and eight children were born to them, of whom seven are living, six in this city.\* His first permanent residence was at 309 C Street, N. W., which he purchased shortly after his marriage, in 1847, and some years later built on the adjoining lot the more commodious house No. 307 C Street, where he resided until his death.

\* Justice Andrew C. Bradley, his second son, died since the delivery of this paper.



Our neighbors in those early days were old families whose names have been recalled to this association by Mr. Douglass Zevely's recent papers, and I need not rehearse them. I cannot refrain, however, from a word in passing about the old C Street neighborhood. It was a comfortable, cheerful, unconventional and rather popular old community then—much visited from other parts of the city and its two boarding houses much frequented by members of Congress. It was the day of small incomes, cheap food and clothing and old-fashioned hospitality. It was also the day of pure democracy and the freedom of the city was generally accorded to the animal kingdom—giving certain neighborhoods, and ours especially, a semi-pastoral appearance. Stately processions of conceited geese and inane, quacking ducks waddled calmly and peacefully along the streets to and from their morning bath in Tiber Creek; stray pigs rooted unmolested in the gutters until their day of judgment came—once a year—when a stalwart negro appeared with an eager bull dog, which rushed with apparent glee and enjoyment to his business of catching pigs by the ear and holding them until secured and carted off. Cows browsed lazily along the curbs and in vacant lots, and occasionally one more intelligent and romantic than the rest—tired, perhaps, of a steady diet of grass—would wander forth moonlight nights, stealthily unlatch front gates, and make her way to the garbage barrel in the back yard, and was never cured until some fateful night the barrel remained on her head and led to exposure and punishment. A not infrequent sight was a wagonload of fresh hides being hauled through the street and followed by a dozen or more frantic cows, rearing, plunging, kicking, stamping, swinging their tails high in the air and bellowing with every sign of grief and frenzy. Some of the curi-

ous human freaks who roamed about in those days would be worth describing, but time does not admit.

A closing word of tribute to those to whom I am most indebted. My father was a man of the purest life, strictest integrity and most consistent Christian character, and my mother a woman of the finest instincts, cultured in mind and heart, and an earnest Bible student, who strove to instil into her children the faith and principles which were the foundation and strength of her own character. The patriotism of both was as deep and ingrained as their religion, and they loved the old flag as they did their church.

The ancestors of both had a clean consistent record for Christian character and good citizenship, and thus bequeathed to their descendants "a goodly heritage."

## A HISTORY OF THE CITY POST-OFFICE.

By MADISON DAVIS.

(Read before the Society May 12, 1902.)

By Section 8 of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, Congress is given the power "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district (not exceeding ten miles square), as may, by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States."

In partial exercise of the power thus conveyed, two enactments were made by Congress soon after the adoption of the Constitution—one on the 16th of July, 1790, and the other on the 3d of March, 1791—by which the President of the United States was authorized to select a tract of country on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, in the states of Maryland and Virginia, not exceeding the constitutional limit, for the permanent seat of the government on and after the first Monday in December, 1800—the intention being to establish within this territory the capital city of the nation. Accordingly, President Washington, by proclamation dated the 30th of March, 1791, selected the tract previously given by the legislatures of Maryland and Virginia, afterwards known as the District of Columbia, as the seat of government; and immediately after this, by his direction, a plan of the future federal city was prepared, and arrangements entered into with the proprietors of the land, by which the government was to secure such of the laid-out lots



and parks as it might need for its own use, with the addition of such other lots as were thought to constitute a fair compensation to it for its selection of the city's site, and the owners were to have the rest.

Upon the completion of these arrangements, people began to buy lots in the new city, and to build houses upon them, and later on the government took an active part in the establishment of the city by the appointment of a board of commissioners to look after the sale of lots, and with the proceeds thereof, together with other funds from time to time appropriated, to erect such public buildings as might be required for the government's own accommodation.

This was the origin of the seat of government—at first without a name, then commonly designated the Capital City and the Federal City, and finally christened by the act of Congress of May 6, 1796, the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia. It did not rise, like most other cities, out of the necessities of society, or because of its convenient position at the terminus of or along some great highway of trade, or from any natural advantages as a prospective center of industry: it rose as ancient Alexandria and modern St. Petersburg did—merely from the edict of the governing power. The supreme authority of the nation said, Let there be a city in this spot, and there was one. May its life, like that of the Republic, be perpetual, and may it receive, far more than it has in the past, such fostering care and intelligent consideration at the hands of its creator that not only its own citizens, but those of all other parts of the country, shall feel a just and patriotic pride in its greatness, its culture, and its beauty.

The post-office of the City of Washington, of course, grew out of the same creative act; but its actual exist-

ence began some years after. It was not until the year 1795 that the population and business of the city had grown sufficiently to warrant the establishment of a post-office; and then it was designated not as Washington in the District of Columbia, but as Washington in the state of Maryland; so that even now, when we wish to learn from the records of the Post-Office Department anything relating to the office during the period from June 24, 1795, the date of its establishment, to the first Monday in December, 1800, when the United States began to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the federal district, we must examine the registers for Maryland.

The first postmaster of the city was Thomas Johnson, Jr., the first clerk of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Washington, and son of the chairman of the board—the celebrated Thomas Johnson, the first governor of the state of Maryland, the friend of Washington, one of the leading champions in Maryland of the adoption of the Constitution—a man whose services to his state and country were so pure, so disinterested, so patriotic, and of such magnitude that the record of them should be written in letters of gold.

The younger Johnson—our postmaster—was born in Frederick County, Maryland, on his father's farm, about the year 1770. There is no accessible record of his career before he became postmaster, except that he was appointed clerk of the first Board of Commissioners of the City of Washington, of which his father was the most distinguished member. He probably received an academic education, and was of fair natural ability. He was tendered the appointment of postmaster by the Postmaster-General on the 24th of June, 1795, and he promptly accepted the place—actually entering upon its duties on the 17th of July, 1795. The

emoluments of the position were of course only trifling, but the duties of the place were somewhat onerous, as we find that there were six mails dispatched every week—three to the south and three to the north—to say nothing of the mails that were received. The following public announcement of Mr. Johnson's appointment to the office of postmaster, taken from the files of the *Impartial Observer and Washington Advertiser* of July 17, 1795\*—an old newspaper whose existence has for a century been forgotten—is quite interesting as settling the hitherto disputed question as to the first location of the post-office—on the north side of F Street between 13th and 14th Streets N. W.—and as showing that the office actually began business—in July, 1795—three months before the postmaster was commissioned, as shown by the records of the Post-Office Department.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, July 17, 1795.

The subscriber having lately received an appointment of postmaster of the City of Washington, gives this public notice that he has opened the post office at his house in F Street north, square No. 253, east of the President's Square, where attendance will be given for the purpose of receiving and delivering letters.

The mail for the southward will be made up and closed at 2 o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and mail for the northward at 8 o'clock in the evening of the same days.

T. JOHNSON, JR., P. M.

Mr. Johnson did not live to enjoy the honor of his position very long. He died in the latter part of December, 1795,—having held the office of postmaster not quite six months. He left a small estate, consisting of property in Maryland, a considerable number of lots

\* I am indebted to Mr. Wilhelmus B. Bryan, of the Columbia Historical Society, for the discovery of this interesting notice. I believe that the only copy of the paper from which it is taken is in the library of the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass.



in the City of Washington, and some personalty. His last month's salary as clerk of the Board of Commissioners was paid to his administrator, as we find in the record of the board's proceedings under date of February 18, 1796.

A passage in the following letter, tendering Mr. Johnson the appointment of postmaster, is quite interesting, as affording a contrast between the condition of F Street then and F Street now:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILA., June 24, 1795.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JUNR., ESQR.

*Sir:* A number of gentlemen having recommended you for postmaster at the City of Washington, I do hereby tender to you that office, and should it be agreeable to you to accept of it, be pleased to execute the enclosed bond with sufficient surety, and return it to me, together with the oaths required by law to be taken and subscribed, (blank forms of which are inclosed,) and as soon as I receive them I will send you a commission in due form.

I send herewith a packet containing the post office law, with instructions conformable therewith, together with a key of the mail and all the blank forms of accounts, etc., used in conducting the business; and as soon as you have executed the bond and taken the oaths, you may enter on the duties of your office without waiting for a commission.

The contractor who carries the mail from Baltimore to Alexandria has represented to me that the road which leads past your house is not so good as the old road, and also that it is considerably further. Be pleased to inform me particularly of the state of the two roads, and the difference in distance between them. Should the new road at any season of the year be so bad as to impede the progress of the mail, I trust the commissioners for building the city will make the necessary repairs, as any obstruction to a regular conveyance of the mail upon the main line will be attended with great injury to the public.

I am, sir, &c.,

CHARLES BURRALL,

*Asst. Postmaster-General.*

On the 1st of January, 1796, the second postmaster of the city, Christopher Richmond—popularly known

as Major Richmond—entered upon the duties of the office. He was a man of energy, ability, and patriotism, though but little is now known of his life. He was born in Maryland, of a good family, was active in opposition to the policy of England in the government of the colonies, and early entered the military establishment of his state. In 1777 he was a lieutenant in the Second Maryland regiment, and on the reorganization of the Maryland line in the Continental army he was commissioned first lieutenant of the First Maryland regiment. He remained in the service until 1780. In 1784 he appears to have been auditor general for the state of Maryland, and to have served in the Invalid regiment after he was disabled in the army of General Washington. He was a very close friend of Governor Thomas Johnson, and through his influence was appointed book-keeper and paymaster to the Board of Commissioners of the City of Washington, his appointment as such dating from January 1, 1795.

As was the case with his predecessor, he found the office of postmaster an undesirable one, but he held it until his death, which occurred in less than nine months after his appointment. The emoluments of the place were certainly small. Where he kept his office is not positively known, but it may be reasonably conjectured. He was the owner of lot 11 in Square 290, which is on the southeast corner of F and Thirteenth Streets, where he had his residence. Here he no doubt kept the post-office.

The following letter to William Cranch, later on the eminent chief justice of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, shows that the Postmaster-General had a high ideal when he came to make his selection of a successor to Major Richmond:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, April 20, 1779.

WILLIAM CRANCH, ESQ.

*Sir:* I am just favored with your letter of the 14th inst. Under an idea that you had been a candidate for the appointment of deputy postmaster\* for the City of Washington at the time of Major Richmond's death, I was much disposed to have made you a tender of it in the first instance on a late occasion. When referring, however, to your letter, I found that you had only recommended a successor to Major Richmond, and I was informed that from your residence and extensive practice as an attorney, the appointment in question could not be an object of the smallest importance to you.

J. HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

On the 1st of October, 1796, one of the President's distant kinsmen, Lund Washington, became postmaster—his appointment being an exception to Washington's rule of not putting his relatives into public office.

When Lund Washington was born is not known, nor what was his exact relationship to the President. His place of birth was probably Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was associated with Washington in matters of business from 1761, and during the whole of the Revolutionary War acted as his confidential steward and man of business. Throughout this entire connection he was intrusted with the most important affairs of the General, and he seems to have executed his trust with rare fidelity and good sense. Only once did he subject himself to reproof, and then his offence—the extension of courtesies to officers of a British fleet that had ascended the Potomac during the Revolutionary struggle—was caused by a too zealous care for his employer's interest. The facts leading to this rebuke, and the considerateness and tact with which it was admin-

\* The office here named is what is now universally called postmaster. In early days the office was commonly designated deputy postmaster—all postmasters being considered deputies to the head postmaster or Postmaster-General.



istered, afford such a beautiful illustration of Washington's character that I feel warranted in here reproducing his letter:

NEW WINDSOR, 30 April, 1781.

*Dear Lund:* I am very sorry to hear of your loss: I am a little sorry to hear of my own. But that which gives me most concern is, that you should go on board the enemy's vessels and furnish them with refreshments. It would have been a less painful circumstance to me to have heard that in consequence of your non-compliance with their request, they had burned my house and laid the plantation in ruins. You ought to have considered yourself as my representative, and should have reflected on the bad example of communicating with the enemy, and making a voluntary offer of refreshments to them with a view to prevent a conflagration.

It was not in your power, I acknowledge, to prevent them from sending a flag on shore, and you did right to meet it; but you should, in the same instant that the business of it was unfolded, have declared explicitly that it was improper for you to yield to the request, after which, if they had proceeded to help themselves by force, you could but have submitted; and being unprovided for defence, this was to be preferred to a feeble opposition, which only serves as a pretext to burn and destroy.

I am thoroughly persuaded that you acted from your best judgment, and believe that your desire to preserve my property and rescue the buildings from impending danger was your governing motive; but to go on board their vessels, carry them refreshments, commune with a parcel of plundering scoundrels, and request a favor by asking a surrender of my negroes, was exceedingly ill-judged, and, it is to be feared, will be unhappy in its consequences, as it will be a precedent for others, and may become a subject for animadversion.

I am sincerely yours,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

In another letter of Washington's, concerning this same subject, written to Lafayette, he speaks thus of his confidence in the character and patriotism of Lund Washington:

A false idea, arising from the consideration of his being my steward, and in that character more the trustee and guardian of my property than the representative of my honor, has misled his judgment and plunged him into error upon the appearance of desertion among my negroes and danger to my buildings; for sure I am that no man is more firmly opposed to the enemy than he is. From a thorough conviction of this, and of his integrity, I trusted every species of my property to his care without reservation or fear of his abusing it.

At the time Mr. Washington became postmaster, a fierce rivalry existed between the eastern and western portions of the young city in the erection of houses and in the engrossment of business. The commissioners of the city rather favored the western section; but as regards the location of the post-office the Postmaster-General favored a central position as one most convenient for the people. His letter appointing Mr. Washington shows this preference:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILA., May 11, 1796.

LUND WASHINGTON, ESQ.

*Sir:* The office of deputy postmaster of the City of Washington being vacant by the death of the late Christopher Richmond, Esqr., I now make you a tender of it.

It will be necessary for the person who accepts the appointment, if not residing there, immediately to repair to the city to take charge of the office, which I expect will be kept in a situation nearly central between the President's House and the Capitol. If it should be agreeable to you to hold the office, you will please to execute the enclosed bond with sufficient security, and take and subscribe the oaths, blank forms of which you will also receive.

When properly executed you will return the bond and oaths to this office, and your commission shall be immediately forwarded to you with an order to receive the papers and other articles of the post-office property from Mr. Donlevy, who is now in possession of them.

I am, &c.,

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

Mr. Washington, it seems, had a different idea from that of the Postmaster-General as to the location of the post-office. He was early taken in hand by the advocates of the eastern section, besides, no doubt, being naturally inclined to favor that part of the city on account of General Washington's property interests there; so that, with the sanction of the Post-Office Department, we find him establishing his quarters on Capitol Hill in Square 728, and there keeping them until he ceased to be postmaster. The building where the post-office was thus kept is no longer standing; but tradition has it that much of the old material in it was used in the erection of a stable, occupying the same site, in the rear of Governor N. G. Ordway's residence near the corner of First and East Capitol Streets. In the following letter, the Postmaster-General sanctions Mr. Washington's selection:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILA., May 26, 1796.

LUND WASHINGTON, ESQR.

*Sir:* I have received your letter of the 24th of May, with your bond, and I now enclose you a commission as deputy postmaster of the City of Washington. I am informed that your situation in the square of the Capitol will be rather more convenient for a post-office than the one I proposed, and you may fix it in Square No. 728 for the present. Mr. Donlevy will deliver all papers or any other property belonging to the post office on your presenting the enclosed order to him. If you are in want of any blanks, they will be forwarded from this office on your application for them, and any information respecting your duty will at all times be readily given you.

I am, &c.,

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

Mr. Washington seems to have been a popular and efficient postmaster, giving careful attention to the interests of the public, but certainly not neglecting his own, as is shown by a demand for extra compensation made about two months after he got into his seat:



GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26, 1796.

LUND WASHINGTON, ESQ.

*Sir:* I have received your letters on the subject of an increased compensation in consequence of having to dispatch the mails at unseasonable hours of the night and morning. Will you be so good as to be particular in stipulating how often and at what hours, either late at night or very early in the morning, you are engaged with the mail through the summer and winter, that I may know in what proportion to advance your commissions.

I am much obliged to you for your information as to the condition in which the mails have arrived at your office. The contractors have given me the most positive assurance that they will have boxes so contrived and fixed as to secure the mails from being exposed to the weather, and I will not fail to remind them of the necessity of complying with those assurances. The mail is of too much importance to be carried any longer under the driver's feet, and I shall endeavor to prevent it in future.

I am, &c.,

J. HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, February 9, 1797.

LUND WASHINGTON, ESQ.

*Sir:* . . .

You will be allowed to charge 30 per cent. commissions on the two winter quarters in which you are engaged with the mails three times a week at 5 o'clock in the morning, which is a very unseasonable hour to be obliged to rise at, and certainly entitles you to an increased compensation.

A new Post Office bill is before the Senate. If that passes, your commissions must be changed conformably thereto in all future transactions of your office.

Be so good as to forward your accounts as soon as possible.

I am, &c.,

J. HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

An instance of his enterprise as postmaster is shown in his early application for the appointment of an

official letter-carrier—designated in those days as “the penny-post”—and his securing consent to the demand.\*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, April 18, 1798.

LUND WASHINGTON, Esq.

*Sir:* Yours of the 18th ultimo was duly received. Blanks for accounts of letters, &c., received and sent, were forwarded immediately, and for accounts current are sent herewith.

You will please to employ a letter-carrier for the delivery of letters in Washington City whenever you find a proper person, and as long as it shall appear to you of use.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES BURRALL,  
*Asst. Postmaster-General.*

The scope of the business of the office was greatly increased during Mr. Washington's administration, as also the postal revenue. In the last year of his term, the gross receipts of the office amounted to nearly \$8,000, and the mails coming from and going to other points numbered four every other day. Undelivered letters, too, were regularly advertised, and we find in the old files of the *Washington Gazette* and the *National Intelligencer* long and interesting lists of these early dead letters.

The rather large emoluments of the office, however, and perhaps the postmaster's unfortunate habits, finally

\* As far back as the reign of Charles II. letter-carriers, or penny-postmen, were employed to make personal delivery of letters in the city of London. Benjamin Franklin in his “Autobiography” states that he employed them of his own volition when he was postmaster of Philadelphia; while by the act of Parliament of 1765—5th George III.—authority was given the Postmaster-General to establish penny-post offices anywhere in America. The first act of Congress authorizing them was that of May 8, 1794, section 28. This authority was repeated in the 27th section of the act of March 2, 1799; again in the 34th section of the act of April 30, 1810; and again in the 36th section of the act of March 3, 1825, under which these officers continued to be employed until the establishment of the present system of free delivery by salaried letter-carriers under the provisions of the act of March 3, 1863.

got him into difficulties, and brought about his official downfall. He was dismissed as a defaulter on the 29th of January, 1799, and several years after, as we find from a judicial advertisement in the *National Intelligencer* of October 18, 1805, he was confined in a debtor's prison. This, however, need not be regarded as singular, for three of the wealthiest men in the nation—Robert Morris, the great financier of the Revolution, James Greenleaf, the millionaire, and John Nicholson, the financial agent of Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary struggle—all largely interested in the development of the federal city—became bankrupt, and in consequence thereof, for a time were deprived of their personal liberty as insolvent debtors.

The following correspondence in connection with Lund Washington's default is worthy of publication, as showing that it was probably due to intemperance and not to dishonesty, and as indicating the Postmaster-General's disposition to deal gently and mercifully, but without any relaxation of justice, towards a kinsman of the first President:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Jany. 24, 1799.  
LUND WASHINGTON, ESQ., P. M., Washington City.

*Sir:* The Assistant Postmaster General gave Mr. Evans, one of the contractors, an order on you, dated the 1st of August last, for \$200, which was returned unpaid, and on the 11th of October he reminded you that a speedy remittance of the balance was indispensable. In answer to his letter, you informed him that the balance should be forwarded in the course of a few days, since which there has been no communication from you on the subject. Notwithstanding it is a general rule at this office to remove every postmaster who refuses payment of our drafts, in the present instance I have waited since the month of August last in hopes that a compliance with your promise would prevent my having recourse to that very disagreeable step. No remittance, however, is yet received, and your balances, nearly a year and a half in arrears, have



accumulated to about six hundred dollars, for the greater part of which I am now personally responsible, as no suit is commenced within the time limited by law for the recovery of the debt. The business of this office is very laborious when postmasters discharge the duties required of them with punctuality; but it is rendered extremely irksome by a different conduct on the part of the deputies. Under these circumstances a sense of duty, and my personal interest,\* make it necessary for me to place the office of postmaster of the City of Washington in other hands, and I have therefore made a tender of it to Mr. Munroe, of the Commissioners' office. If he accepts the appointment, you will be pleased to deliver him the maps of the postroads, with all letters and articles of post-office property that may be in your possession.

I hope, sir, you will not compel me to take another disagreeable step—that of commencing a suit for the recovery of the balance you owe the public, which must be done unless it is speedily remitted.

I am, sir,

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24, 1799.

THOMAS MUNROE, ESQ.,

*Sir:* I find it necessary to make a new appointment of deputy postmaster of the City of Washington, and you are recommended to me in such favorable terms as to induce me to make you a tender of it. If you accept the appointment, you will be pleased to execute the bond and oath which are now enclosed. When these papers are properly executed, they are to be returned to this office, and on receiving them a commission will be immediately transmitted to you as postmaster of the city.

Mr. Washington is apprised of your appointment, and will deliver you all letters and blanks remaining on hand, the key of the mail, maps of the post-roads, and any other articles of post-office property that may be in his possession.

In respect to a situation for the post-office, from every information I have received on the subject, Blodgett's Hotel appears to be the spot that will afford the most general ac-

\* In the early days of the Post-Office Department, the Postmaster-General was by law made personally responsible for all official indebtedness of a postmaster unless suit for its recovery was begun within a prescribed time after the indebtedness was ascertained.

commodation. I wish it, therefore, to be kept there, or as near it as possible. If, however, there should be any obstacle to fixing the office at that place, then, I presume, either the square of the Capitol or the President's square will answer for a temporary situation. When the seat of government is removed to the city, it will be necessary to take the most eligible spot for a permanent situation for the office.

I am, etc.,

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, March 4, 1799.

LUND WASHINGTON, ESQUIRE.

*Sir:* I received yours of the 31st December, but an uncommon pressure of business during the session of Congress has hitherto prevented an earlier reply to it.

Your conduct while in office, so far as regards the general duties of it, was unexceptionable except in making remittances. I can with pleasure add that your integrity stands unimpeachable while you held that appointment.

Two months have elapsed since you promised to remit the balance of your account on Mr. Munroe's entering upon the duties of the office. I shall wait a few weeks longer, and if the money due from you is not received, I must then place your bond in the hands of an attorney. I wish if possible to avoid taking this step, as it must be productive of expense and other disagreeable consequences to you.

Yours, etc.,

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

On the 30th of January, 1799, Thomas Munroe became postmaster. As was the case with two of his predecessors, he was born in Maryland, but in what part of it I am unable to learn—probably in the city of Annapolis. His father was William Munroe, a prominent merchant of that city, and evidently a man of courage and high principle; for, though a zealous patriot himself, we find his name appended to a series of resolutions, adopted in 1774 at a meeting of citizens of Annapolis, protesting, because of its dishonest nature,

against an attempt then being made by some of the most eminent patriots of Maryland to interfere with the payment of just debts to merchants and others in England. The son, Thomas, was born on the 7th of August, 1771, and he died in Washington on the 14th of April, 1852. As he was the clerk of the first Board of Commissioners to lay out the city and to see to the erection of the proposed government buildings, it is likely that he first came to Washington in 1791, and from Annapolis, where he had previously resided. He was then about twenty years of age, his friend and patron no doubt being Governor Thomas Johnson (the father of the first postmaster), whom President Washington had just appointed a member of the Federal City Commission. Five years afterwards he was married to Fanny, daughter of William Whetcroft, a public-spirited merchant of Annapolis, by whom he had four children—two sons and two daughters. Among his descendants are Admiral F. M. Ramsay, John Sidney Webb, and H. Randall Webb, all of Washington City. At the time of his death he was in the eighty-first year of his age, being then the oldest citizen of Washington.

Mr. Munroe not only held the office of postmaster and clerk to the Board of Commissioners of the new city, but he was afterwards the Superintendent of Public Grounds of the District of Columbia, which office he held from its creation, June 1, 1802, until the year 1818. He was a man of great public spirit, and was personally interested in a number of business corporations in Washington. In connection with Judge William Cranch, General John P. Van Ness, and several others, he established the first manufacturing company in the federal city—the organization being known as the Columbia Manufacturing Company, and its business being the manufacture of cotton fabrics. He was also,





THOMAS MUNROE,  
POSTMASTER OF WASHINGTON CITY,  
1799 TO 1829.



in 1796, an officer of the famous old Bank of Columbia of Georgetown, in 1808 one of the incorporators of the Washington Bridge Company for building the Long Bridge across the Potomac, a director of the Patriotic Bank, and one of the founders of the Bank of the Metropolis, still doing business, but now known as the National Metropolitan Bank.

Mr. Munroe resided mostly in the western part of the city, on Pennsylvania Avenue. His widow survived him six years, dying on the 16th of September, 1858, at the advanced age of eighty-four. He was an Episcopalian. In person he was quite handsome—indeed, he was a very distinguished-looking man.

As soon as Mr. Munroe was appointed postmaster the struggle between the partisans of the eastern and western parts of the city as to the location of the post-office, was revived, but with a different result. The postmaster removed the office to the north side of F between 13th and 14th Streets—no doubt to the very house that had been used as an office by Thomas Johnson, the first postmaster. A strong remonstrance against this removal was made to the Postmaster-General by Daniel Carroll of Duddington and others interested in the eastern section, but without avail, as is seen in the following letter:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, May 8, 1799.

DANIEL CARROLL AND OTHERS.

*Gentlemen:* I have duly considered the contents of your last letter, relative to the situation of the post-office in the City of Washington, and the result is that my opinion is not changed on that subject.

It appears from every information I have received—and I have taken some pains to be well informed on the subject—that Blodgett's Hotel would be the most central spot for the office as respects the present population of the city. I cannot, therefore, think that square No. 253 is an inconvenient situa-



tion for it. From the present scattered population of the city, no spot can be fixed on which would not be extremely remote from and inconvenient to a few other inhabitants; it has therefore been my wish to place the office as nearly central as circumstances will admit. In making these arrangements I have had no other object in view than the most general accommodation, and in the present instance it has been consulted to the best of my judgment.

I regret exceedingly that our opinions differ so widely on the present occasion; but with the impression I am under as to the most eligible spot for the post-office, it would be an act of injustice in me to compel Mr. Munroe to incur any expense in removing his office from its present situation, especially when the emoluments of it are so inadequate to the services rendered by him.

J. HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

In the situation referred to in the foregoing letter Mr. Munroe kept the post-office until the removal of the government departments from Philadelphia during the following year, when he moved into the building rented for the use of the Post-Office Department, on the northwest corner of 9th and E Streets N. W.—a building that has long since been destroyed. After it ceased to be used by the government it was occupied for years as a residence by Joseph Gales, the celebrated editor of the *National Intelligencer*, and was the resort of many distinguished persons, friends of that gentleman. In the following extracts from two letters of Abraham Bradley, the Assistant Postmaster-General, interesting allusion is made to this building:

On the 2d of June, 1800, he says:

We arrived here on Friday last, having had a pleasant journey as far as we travelled by daylight. Capt. Stevenson, with whom I agreed for a house before my arrival, was not ready to give possession, and the house was not convenient for us. I have therefore taken a large three-story house within a few rods of Blodgett's Hotel, which will accommodate the



BUILDING OCCUPIED AS CITY POST OFFICE DURING PART OF THE TIME OF POSTMASTER MUNROE'S ADMINISTRATION.  
Located on F street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, in rear of present Branch P. O. Station "C."  
From a photograph in possession of the Society.





office and my family, and the postmaster's office. It is about equidistant from the President's House and the Capitol.

On the 11th of June, 1800, Mr. Bradley further writes:

We have not been able to open the office and commence business until this day. I left Philadelphia Wednesday, May 27th, and arrived on Friday evening the 29th. The President left Philadelphia the 26th and arrived at Georgetown June 1st. The situation of the city is extremely pleasant, and it will probably become the greatest city in America.

We have taken Dr. Crocker's house for this office (close by the Great Hotel) and for my family at \$600 a year. The apportionment of the rent I shall leave to you. It appears that \$200 a year is as much as I ought to pay for a house. Our office is kept on the second floor, which contains one large room and two small ones. The largest room is 27 by 17 feet, and the smallest rooms are each 15 by 14 feet. The front room on the first floor was prepared for Mr. Munroe's office, with an apartment for blanks. Only half the floors were laid when we took the house, and only four rooms were plastered. The owner allowed us to expend \$300 of the rent to make it tenantable. The carpenters are now at work, and we shall complete, as far as our money shall permit, by the last of next week, at which time Mr. Munroe will move his office here.

Mr. Munroe did not remain long in the quarters assigned him by Mr. Bradley. The building was too small for the service of both the Post-Office Department and the city post-office, and the latter therefore had to "get out." The new home of the post-office was a house on lot 3, Square 224—fronting on F Street between 14th and 15th Streets—in which Mr. Munroe resided, as appears by an old deed of trust on the property given by its owner, Pierce Pursell, on the 11th of November, 1801. This old house is still standing, in a fair state of preservation, in the rear of Station C of the Washington City post-office, being owned by

Joseph E. Willard and occupied as a store-room by Thomas A. Brown. Even in this house Mr. Munroe was not permitted to remain very long, as we shall see later on.

The following letter to Mr. Munroe, written about three months after he became postmaster, shows that while he was no doubt endeavoring to serve the public to the best of his ability, he was not tardy in looking after his own interests:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1799.

THOMAS MUNROE, Esq.

*Sir:* The establishment of a line of stages from this city to Baltimore has for some weeks past engrossed so much of my attention that I could not conveniently reply earlier to your letter of the 25th of February.

There are no times fixed for the arrival of mails at the city; and I presume they vary so much that it would be very difficult to prescribe the hours of attendance at your office. The inhabitants are also scattered over such an extent of ground that it would be a subject of just complaint with many who are already dissatisfied with the present situation of the office.

The law authorizes me to increase the compensation of the deputies to 50 per cent. on the first hundred dollars collected in a quarter at such offices where the mails arrive regularly between the hours of 9 o'clock at night and 5 o'clock in the morning; and you will be allowed at that rate during the period you are engaged with the mails at the unseasonable hours you have mentioned. No other changes are provided for except for stationery, cases for the safekeeping of letters, and for advertising the list of letters remaining on hand. Charges for firewood, candles, and office rent of course cannot be allowed, as they would not be passed at the Treasury.

The letters for such persons as may empower Mr. Cooke to receive them must be delivered to him; you are right, however, not to employ him as penny-postman. I do not recollect to have given my consent to his acting as such; but if I did, I must have had a favorable opinion of his character at the time.

If you find it necessary, I shall have no objection to your employing a letter-carrier. A person in that capacity must take the oath prescribed by law.

I am convinced that your expenditures for some time to come will far exceed your compensation; but it is not in my power to place you on a better footing at present, there being no discretionary powers vested in me to increase the commissions of the deputies.

JOSEPH HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

It seems, however, that Mr. Munroe did not believe in giving too much of his time to the business of the office, as the following letters indicate—evidently there being a sort of running fight between the Post-Office Department on one side for more hours of service, and the post-office on the other for less:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21, 1801.  
THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* The want of fixed hours for transacting business at your office has given rise to some complaints and inconvenience, particularly to the people of Georgetown—the northern mail having in several instances arrived when no person was in the office to change it. Persons residing at a distance have been obliged from the same cause to call several times before they could accomplish their business. To prevent such inconveniences in future, it is necessary to have certain fixed hours for attendance; and it appears to me that for the purpose of transacting business at the window, your office ought to be constantly kept open from 8 a. m. to sunset, or 7 p. m. in winter, every day excepting Sunday. You will please to consider those the fixed hours for attendance for that purpose in future.

I am, &c.,

J. HABERSHAM,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4, 1801.  
MR. THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* For the better accommodation of the government and citizens of this District, I have to request that your office be kept open from 8 o'clock a.m. until 9 o'clock p.m., and until all the various mails shall have arrived each night, and the necessary arrangements are made that the officers of the gov-



ernment and others may have letters each evening if they desire it.

With much respect, &c.,

GIDEON GRANGER,

*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 2, 1803.  
POSTMASTER, Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* The post-office in this city will, from this time to the meeting of Congress, be kept open for the delivery of letters to the citizens on each day, Sundays excepted, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from half-past 3 p.m. until half-past 7 p.m.; and you will notify the citizens hereof by posting up one copy of this order on the door of your office and another copy on the outer wall near the window where the letters are delivered.

Respectfully,

GIDEON GRANGER,

*Postmaster-General.*

The following letters serve to show that Mr. Munroe was "bossed" a little by his superior officers in the Post-Office Department—a thing, however, which he bore with patience for nearly a generation, and which all of his successors in turn have had to philosophically endure:

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5, 1812.  
THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington City, D. C.

*Sir:* I send you Burrall's letter of the 2d, as he requests me to. I hope you and he will not blow up a passion.

Respy, &c.,

GIDEON GRANGER,

*Postmaster-General.*

(Burrall was then the postmaster at Baltimore, Md. Previously he had been the Assistant Postmaster-General).

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 8, 1812.  
THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* . . .

I am informed that very large packages are sometimes sent by the mail to Thomas Jefferson, Esq., to the embarrassment

of the mail, and contrary to the spirit of the law which grants him a frank. In case of any future occurrence of this kind, I pray you to stop them at your office, and notify me, that I may take them into my own custody, for which I have Mr. Jefferson's assent.      Respy, &c.,

GIDEON GRANGER,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5, 1810.  
THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* You will please to detain the western mail this day till 5 o'clock p.m., that the message may be forwarded. You will also delay the southern mail till 5 p.m., for the same purpose.

Respectfully yours,

GIDEON GRANGER,  
*Postmaster-General.*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27, 1817.  
THOMAS MUNROE, P. M., Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* I wish you to inform the southern or Alexandria driver that it is his duty to announce his arrival by blowing the horn or rapping at the door. He must keep charge of the mail until the gentlemen of your office are ready to receive it.

Respectfully,

R. J. MEIGS, JR.,  
*Postmaster-General.*

For years Mr. Munroe was troubled by the custom that had grown up of giving credit to citizens for postage. He tried in various ways to avoid loss to himself by this practice, but, failing, was at last compelled to announce that he would not give credit any further. He says in this announcement that "deposits of postage may be made in advance, or satisfactory arrangements may perhaps be conveniently made *with the letter-carrier* by most of the inhabitants."

That the letter-carriers of that time, by the way, did not have a Midas's job of it, the following notice, taken from the *National Intelligencer* of February 27, 1804, sufficiently proves:

The subscriber intending to relinquish the employment of letter-carrier on the 31st of March next, supposes it may not be improper to give such previous notice thereof as may prevent any inconvenience that may arise from the want of time to employ a person in his stead, or to make any other arrangements on the subject that may be deemed necessary. He avails himself of this occasion to return his sincere thanks to those gentlemen who have so generously contributed to enable him to encounter the peculiar disadvantages attending a carrier in this place; but notwithstanding their liberal aid, he finds his emoluments so inadequate to a livelihood that he is compelled to resort to other means of support.

EDWARD ENO.

In many respects the administration of Mr. Munroe as postmaster was the most remarkable in the long history of the post-office. During it the city and district passed from state to national control, and the gross postal revenue grew from about \$8,300 in 1801 to nearly \$27,000 in 1829. In this period he saw the city invaded by a foreign army, and the public buildings burned, although his own office escaped molestation; he saw the dispatch of the mails increase from three times a week to daily, and in a few instances to even double daily, service; he saw steamboat transportation of the mails introduced upon the Potomac River in 1827; he saw the capital city expand from a hamlet of a dozen or two houses and a few hundred inhabitants to a very considerable city with a population of nearly 19,000; and he had the distinction of serving satisfactorily under five presidential administrations, and for thirty consecutive years. Throughout the whole of this time nothing was done by him deserving of suspicion or reproach. The department's letter-books may be thoroughly examined, and nothing in the way of censure will be found except an occasional reference to a trivial mistake or act of neglect, for which the office employés, and not the postmaster himself, were



responsible. He kept in office continuously letter-carriers or penny-postmen for the delivery of mail to the houses of persons who desired that service; he dispatched and received the mails with care and regularity; he recommended through mail service to many parts of the country; he was quick to note and report errors and omissions in the management of postal business, with suggestions for its betterment; and when he was removed from office in 1829, it was not by reason of any fault of his, but simply because a strong partisan of the new administration wanted the place, and the President was willing that he should have it. The best proof of most of this is found in the fact that for some reason not now clearly known, his office was investigated in 1826, under a resolution of the Senate, and nothing was developed by the committee having the matter in charge showing the least appearance of dishonesty, neglect, mismanagement, or other impropriety.

Shortly after Mr. Munroe moved, in 1800, into the rented building on the corner of Ninth and E Streets—the first home of the Post-Office Department in the new city—the quarters were found to be too small for the use of both the general and the city post-office; and so he was compelled to seek other accommodations, finding them first, as we have heretofore seen, in a private house in Square 224, on F Street between 14th and 15th Streets, and then, about the beginning of 1802, in a public building west of the President's House, known as the Southwest Executive Building, erected between 1799 and 1801 for the accommodation of the State, War, and Navy Departments, and which continued in their joint use until August 25, 1814, when it was destroyed by the British army.\* Here he re-

\* When this building was rebuilt in 1815-16, it was called the Navy Department building, and was used by that Department exclusively.

maintained until, under the following provision in the act of Congress approved April 28, 1810, he was again required to seek another official abode:

That the President of the United States be and hereby is authorized to cause the city post office and the offices of the superintendent and surveyor of the City of Washington to be immediately removed from the public building west of the President's House.

The exact date of the removal that was made under this requirement of law, and the place to which the post-office went, are now matters for conjecture only. I have been able to find no official record of either.\*

In 1810 the government purchased the unfinished building on E between Seventh and Eighth Streets, known as Blodgett's or the Great Hotel, for the use of the general and city post-offices, and of the Patent Office, and into the eastern end of the first floor of this building the city post-office was moved in the latter part of 1812. When the building was enlarged later on, the post-office still remained in it, and occupied rooms on the first floor, on the corner of Seventh and E Streets. Here it stayed until the building was burned down in 1836.

\* In some interesting manuscript notes now in the Library of Congress, prepared by the late Col. George Watterston as the basis of a history of Washington City, the statement is made that at one time the post-office was kept in a house on Pennsylvania Avenue opposite the Six Buildings. I find also, in an intelligently written communication to the *National Intelligencer* appearing in the issue of March 25, 1839, and signed *Vox Populi*, the assertion that when the post-office was crowded out of the Southwest Executive Building in 1810, it went to a rented house farther west on Pennsylvania Avenue. Furthermore, I am informed by Capt. John Stewart, at present and for many years past an invaluable assistant to the Supt. of Public Buildings and Grounds, that he has seen, though he cannot now recall the exact data, an official record to the effect that the post-office was removed in 1810 to a place on Pennsylvania Avenue west of 18th St. From these circumstances, I am inclined to think that in the interval from the abandonment of the Southwest Executive Building to the occupancy of quarters in Blodgett's Hotel, Mr. Munroe kept the office somewhere on Pennsylvania Avenue west of the President's House.

The following sections of the act of Congress of March 7, 1812, relate to this occupancy of Blodgett's Hotel:

1. That the Postmaster General, under the direction of the President of the United States, be authorized to repair and finish, in a suitable manner, for the accommodation of the Post-Office Department and the Patent Office, the two stories of the building purchased for the government by authority of the aforesaid act, being the first and second stories, including also sundry repairs on the outside and in the garret of said building, upon the principles stated in the report of the Postmaster General dated January 15, 1812.

2. That as soon as the repairs can be properly made, and before the commencement of the next annual session of Congress, the General Post-Office and the city post-office shall be removed to said public building.

From an interesting statement submitted to Congress by Postmaster-General R. J. Meigs in 1822, the following extract is made, showing the employes of the office and their compensation, together with the postmaster's salary and the miscellaneous expenses of the office for the year ending September 30, 1820:

Postmaster's compensation.....	\$1,975.57
George Sweeney, clerk and assistant postmaster....	1,500.00
Edward Dyer, clerk.....	1,400.00
Thomas Munroe, Jr., clerk, son of the postmaster....	1,100.00
Columbus Munroe, clerk, son of the postmaster....	1,000.00
Alexander Dyer, John Bailey, Joseph Haskill, and Thomas Noyes, assistant clerks on Sabbaths, night, and before daylight of mornings, together.....	830.00
John Goldin, porter.....	400.00
Fuel, \$232.50; candles and oil, \$181.12; paper, quills, red and black ink, sealingwax, etc., \$147.85; re- pairs and various work in and about office, includ- ing porch and steps at letter window, east end of building, office furniture and accommodations for lodging clerks in the office, boxes, baskets, sweeping chimneys, glazing windows and washing same, etc., \$153.08 .....	714.55
Total .....	<u>\$8,920.12</u>



It is a rather singular fact that in rendering his final account to the Treasury Department as postmaster, Mr. Munroe took in all business down to May 25, 1829, and that H. D. Robertson rendered the account from that date down to the close of the quarter, when the new postmaster came in. Why the quarter's accounts should have been thus broken is not shown, nor does it appear what this Mr. H. D. Robertson was.

During the most of Mr. Munroe's incumbency, his compensation amounted to nearly \$2,000 a year, being based on commissions upon the amount of business done. He was paid, besides, a salary of \$1,200 a year as superintendent of buildings for the government.

When Andrew Jackson became President his partisans were clamorous for the public offices within his gift, and he was not at all averse to so bestowing them. Mr. Munroe, the postmaster of Washington, was among the first to suffer from this party feeling. On the 29th of April, 1829—not two months after the new administration came into power—Dr. William Jones, an enthusiastic supporter and admirer of General Jackson, a man of ability and spotless character, but a thorough believer in what has been called the "spoils system," was appointed to succeed Mr. Munroe, although he did not enter upon the duties of the office until the 1st of July following.

He was born on the 12th of April, 1790, near Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland, his father, Evan Jones, of Welsh descent, being a highly respected farmer. William was intended to follow this vocation also, but owing to the persuasion of Rev. John Breckinridge, a Presbyterian clergyman and a friend of the family, he was given a classical education at Rockville Academy, then placed under Dr. William Tyler, of Frederick, Md., as a student of medicine, and



DR. WILLIAM JONES,  
POSTMASTER OF WASHINGTON CITY,  
1829 TO 1841.





afterwards sent to attend a course of medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he was regularly graduated. On the breaking out of the war of 1812, he entered the army as a surgeon, first getting a diploma from the medical and chirurgical faculty of Maryland, and remained such until 1815, when he resigned, and went into private practice with Dr. James H. Blake, of Washington, D. C. On the 21st of December, 1821, he married Miss Sarah L. Corcoran, daughter of Thomas Corcoran, Sr., of Georgetown, D. C., with whom he lived happily until her death, on the 24th of September, 1843.

Quite early in life Dr. Jones became interested in politics, and was a number of times elected to the Washington City councils. After the election of John Quincy Adams he became an ardent Jackson man, and was a member of the celebrated central committee in Washington of which General John P. Van Ness was president, and Henry C. Neale secretary. It is not surprising, therefore, that when General Jackson became President in 1829 he appointed Dr. Jones postmaster of the city—a post which he held through both of Jackson's terms and a part of Van Buren's—that is to say, from April 29, 1829, to March 23, 1839. He was again appointed, under Tyler's administration, on the 10th of July, 1841, holding the place until March 31, 1845; and again, during Buchanan's administration, on the 30th of March, 1858, and continuing in until May 10, 1861. His entire incumbency of the office amounted thus to nearly seventeen years. Dr. Jones was a very fair and impartial man, and of absolutely unimpeachable integrity. He was a strong partisan, but he was highly respected by everybody, and was particularly liked by both Jackson and Tyler. President Buchanan appointed him postmaster solely because he wanted to

bestow a favor upon him. He never entirely relinquished his profession, practicing through a period of fifty years, and he was never known to make a charge for his services where he knew the circumstances of his patient rendered payment very difficult and burdensome. He was a member of the Washington Monument Society, and was president of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. He was a very charitable man, and was a professing Christian, being a member of the Episcopal Church. He was confined to his bed only two or three days before his death, which occurred on the 25th of June, 1867, he being in his seventy-eighth year.

In 1830, the first year of Dr. Jones's incumbency, the gross receipts of the office amounted to \$25,036.53; in 1839, when he went out, the receipts had increased to \$42,560.94. The postmaster's compensation increased also, and so did the force of the office. Letter-carriers or penny-postmen were kept on duty throughout all these years, and in their appointment the postmaster was never known to select any but good Jackson men.

There were two events in Dr. Jones's administration that deserve to be specially noted:

One was the introduction of railroads, and the transmission of the mails over them, which occurred in 1833. The railroad first used for this purpose was the one from this city to Baltimore. Of course the result of this innovation was more work for the post-office, growing out of the greater frequency of dispatches in and out.

The other event was the burning of the post-office building. This happened on the 15th of December, 1836. The fire occurred during the night, when there was no opportunity of securing sufficient help to extinguish it, and the report upon the case made by the Postmaster-General showed rather a negligent supervision

of the building by the postal officials. The fire originated in the eastern end of the building, in the basement, immediately under the rooms occupied by the city post-office, and was no doubt due to the neglect or carelessness of some of its employés. The entire building was destroyed, and nearly everything of value in it was burned. The letter-books of the Postmaster-General were among the few things that escaped destruction, and these were saved principally through the exertions of the late John C. Rives, who was among the first persons to arrive at the department after the fire began.

The following graphic account of this fire is taken from the *National Intelligencer* of December 16, 1836:

DISASTROUS CONFLAGRATION.—*General Post-Office and the Patent Office in Ashes.*—It is with no ordinary regret that we perform the duty of announcing the destruction by fire of the building in the central part of this city which has for many years been occupied by the General Post-Office, the Patent Office, and the city post-office, with an important part of the contents of those buildings, including the entire contents of the two latter. This calamity, great as it is, has long been feared by those old residents of Washington who knew the combustible nature of the building, (the floors being all of wood, and some of them not even countersealed,) and the custom of storing fuel, not only coal but wood, in the vaults underneath the first floor. The calamity has come at last, and affords the second demonstration within four years of the utter absurdity and improvidence of the structures to which the public archives, records, and government accounts have been hitherto for the most part confided.

The first alarm of fire was given by Mr. Crown, a messenger, who usually sleeps in the room connected with the city post-office, (the postmaster's own room.) The clerks had been at work assorting the mails until half-past 2 o'clock, when one of the persons belonging to the office (Mr. Lansdale) passed out of the east door, and along the whole front of the building, without discovering anything to give rise to a suspicion of danger. Not long after 3 o'clock Mr. Crown was aroused from a light slumber by the smell of smoke. Opening the door of the city post-office he perceived a dense smoke without any visible



appearance of fire. He gave the alarm instantly, first rousing Mr. Cox, one of the clerks, who slept in a back room adjoining the post-office, and who, coming out of the door of his room, passed along the whole of the long room with difficulty through the smoke, hearing the fire crackling, but being able to see nothing. The watchmen in the body of the building, some distance from the city post-office, had perceived nothing of the smoke until they also were alarmed by Mr. Crown.

The hour of the night when all this took place being one at which the whole world is buried in the deepest sleep, it was found almost impossible to spread the alarm of fire. One of the church bells began to ring, but the ringer, not seeing any flame, ceased ringing almost as soon as he began, and it was a full half hour before the alarm bells were rung, and more than that time before an engine or a bucket of water could be commanded. As it was, the fire had its own way, and was at last *seen* in the vault or cellar immediately under the delivery window of the city post-office, followed shortly afterwards by flames from the windows of the latter, and within five minutes afterwards by flames from the roof, the fire having crept up along the staircase or partitions to the top of the building, before it broke out below.

From the moment of the flames bursting out from the lower windows, it was obvious that all hope of saving the building was in vain. In a little more than an hour the whole interior of the building and its contents were destroyed. The books of the General Post-Office were all or nearly all saved, exertions having been made for their safety from nearly the first moment of the alarm; but a mass of papers, etc., belonging to the office were destroyed. Not anything was saved from the Patent Office, the volume of the smoke preventing anybody from penetrating the latter so as to save anything.

As to the origin of the fire, it is impossible to say anything, for nothing seems to be known of it, except that it was in a cellar or vault, in which pine wood and coal were stored, all which were probably in a state of ignition before the fire disclosed itself to the eye. We the more willingly forbear any conjectures as to the cause of the fire, since both houses of Congress have taken steps, through committees, to investigate it, and in one house with power to send for persons and papers.

Most fortunately, the night was calm and comparatively serene, or the destruction of private property would have been inevitable and great. Had it occurred on the night

previous, when the wind blew almost a hurricane, several squares of valuable buildings must have been destroyed. The means of the city for extinguishing fires are wholly inadequate to the value of the property at stake, and the sources of the supply of water for the engines are limited in their extent as well as precarious. We trust that the lesson we have just received will not be lost on those who have it in their power to apply the remedy.

Of all the amount of loss of papers and property sustained by this disaster, that which is most to be regretted, (because irreparable,) is that of the whole of the great repository of models of machines in the Patent Office. The mouldering ashes now only remain of that collected evidence of the penetration, ingenuity, and enterprise which peculiarly distinguish the descendants of Europe in the Western world.

THE CITY POST-OFFICE.—We have mentioned in the preceding article the destruction of all the contents of the city post-office. All the mails of the night and morning, including letters received by other mails for distribution by those mails, except the Warrenton, Va., and Port Tobacco, Md., mails, had been sent off before the fire occurred. All the mails received the preceding evening and in the night for delivery at this place were destroyed, including, of course, all the letters for members of Congress, different officers of the government, and editors. The transmission of mails from this place will not, we understand, be for a moment interrupted by this catastrophe.

There does not now seem to have been any good reason for so much lamentation over this "catastrophe." The building was evidently unfit for government use; besides, as Carlyle well says, all destruction is but new creation in another form; and this fact was well exemplified some years later, when the massive and beautiful building so long known as the General Post-Office, and now as the General Land Office, was erected on the same spot.

It speaks well for the energy and efficiency of Dr. Jones and his assistants in the post-office that not a single outgoing mail from Washington was interrupted by this fire; nor did he waste any time in securing new

quarters for the use of his office. On the following morning after the fire, this notice appeared in the *Intelligencer*:

The city post-office is reopened for the present in the lower story of Mr. Seaver's brick house on Seventh Street, a few doors above the office of the *National Intelligencer*. (Cor. 7th and D Streets.)

This building, which no longer stands, was between D and E Streets, a few doors south of the present dry-goods establishment of Lansburgh & Bro. The accommodations were somewhat cramped, but the postmaster managed to get along with them, and no arrangement for a larger room was made until a year after, when the office was moved to the old Masonic Hall, still standing, on the corner of Four-and-a-half Street and Louisiana Avenue. Dr. Jones's announcement of the removal was made in the *National Intelligencer* of December 31, 1837, as follows:

The City Post-Office will at 4 o'clock this day be removed to the Masonic Hall, corner Louisiana Avenue and Four-and-a-half Street, and opposite the City Hall. The delivery will be on Four-and-a-half Street.

WM. JONES,  
Postmaster.

During the whole of Dr. Jones's incumbency, his salary as postmaster was \$2,000 a year. Here is the roster of his office in 1830, with the salaries:

Thomas Coreoran, assistant postmaster.....	\$1,500
Thomas L. Noyes, clerk.....	1,400
Wm. A. Rind, Jr., clerk.....	1,000
Lambert Tree, clerk.....	800
Isaac Clark, clerk.....	800
George S. Noyes, clerk.....	600
James A. Kennedy.....	400
John Bell.....	300
Elisha D. Berry.....	250

The Thomas Coreoran mentioned in the above list was a brother-in-law of Dr. Jones, and a brother of the





MASONIC HALL, CORNER OF JOHN MARSHALL PLACE AND D STREET.

Used as Post Office in 1836-1837.



celebrated Wm. W. Corcoran, the millionaire philanthropist of Washington. Lambert Tree afterwards became assistant postmaster. He remained in office for two generations, and died when he was nearly ninety years of age.

The annual gross receipts of the office greatly increased during Dr. Jones's administration of its affairs. The year after he went in they amounted to \$25,000; when he went out they had risen to nearly \$43,000. The letter-carrier or penny-post system also continued during the whole of the postmaster's term; and the department evidently regarded it as an important branch of the service, as is indicated by the following letter:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1836.  
DR. WM. JONES, Postmaster, Washington, D. C.

*Sir:* The bonds and oaths of the letter-carriers at Washington having been destroyed by fire on the 15th inst., you are requested to see that the enclosed are properly executed and returned immediately. Respectfully,

SELAH R. HOBBIE,  
*Assistant Postmaster-General.*

Pronounced though Dr. Jones was as a Jacksonian Democrat, he was removed from his position, during the administration of that equally pronounced Democrat, Martin Van Buren, and his place given to Dr. James S. Gunnell. This change caused considerable surprise, and excited even the Whigs to temporary resentment. Here is what the *National Intelligencer*, in its issue of March 23, 1839, said of the change:

Again the guillotine is at work! And now as always, when the odious spirit of political intolerance demoralizes and desolates society, the heads of the worthiest and the most honorable in public stations are the first that fall under the axe.



When we heard a few days ago of the removal from office of Dr. Wm. Jones, the postmaster of the city, we were struck with surprise, because we had never heard of any objection to his official conduct, and because we had no information of his being obnoxious to the members of the present administration. Not being apprised, however, of the cause of the removal, we supposed it possible that the President or the Postmaster General might have had some personal reason, of which we could know nothing, and of the sufficiency of which we therefore could not judge, for making the change. We heard it rumored, indeed, that the ground of his removal was a suspicion of his being friendly to Mr. Senator Rives, and not as decided a supporter of Locofoco principles as he was in duty bound to be. But we could not believe that the President would sanction his removal on such grounds, however certain persons of his privy council might desire it.

The mail of yesterday, however, brings us information which leaves no longer room to doubt that a ruthless and vindictive war is to be waged not only against everything like independence in public officers, but against all such as are suspected of not using their offices to the best advantage for party purposes.

The appointment of Dr. Gunnell was not due to the policy of which the *Intelligencer* here makes so loud a complaint. The removal of Dr. Jones, it is true, may have been due to a suspicion that he was not entirely in accord with the administration, but Dr. Gunnell was, it seems, appointed by President Van Buren purely out of personal regard. He had been for a long time a near neighbor of Mr. Van Buren when he was Secretary of State, and the relations between the two were exceedingly intimate and friendly; so that when the Secretary became President he voluntarily appointed his friend to the office of postmaster, without any reference to his politics, without the slightest solicitation by the Doctor, and, indeed, without his previous knowledge.

Dr. Gunnell was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in the year 1788, and was educated at the Leesburg Academy, afterwards—in 1820—graduating in medi-

cine at the University of Pennsylvania. Before this he had been a lieutenant of light horse in the war of 1812. After graduating he settled in Washington, and there pursued the practice of his profession. He was married, and had a family of six children. One of his sons—Dr. F. M. Gunnell—is now medical director of the United States Navy, retired. He was a very amiable and popular gentleman, and his removal from the office of postmaster—purely for political reasons—was regretted pretty generally. His residence for many years was at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Madison Place, opposite Lafayette Square, and just south of the Lafayette Opera House.

One result of the new appointment was a change in the office of assistant postmaster. Thomas Corcoran retired, and a gentleman of the name of B. F. Mackall came in, who himself, however, was put out after two years of service.

Another result was the removal of the post-office to a new situation. Even before Dr. Gunnell was installed, he announced his intention to leave the Masonic Hall and go to the building that had been used by the Bank of the United States on the northwest corner of 15th Street and New York Avenue—afterwards used as the banking-house of Corcoran & Riggs. This announcement led to very considerable opposition to Dr. Gunnell's plans, and the old fight between the eastern and western sections of the city was renewed with some of its ancient bitterness. In a month or two a compromise seems to have been reached, as appears from the following notice, which appeared in the *National Intelligencer* of June 29, 1839:

The Washington City post office is this day removed to the corner of Twelfth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

J. S. GUNNELL, *Postmaster*.

The building in which the post-office was thus established was torn down shortly afterward, to give place to a large structure used as a hotel. This was known for many years as the Kirkwood House, and became famous as the place where the Lincoln conspirators, in 1865, attempted to assassinate the Vice-President, Andrew Johnson. The property was subsequently purchased by Alexander R. Shepherd, who built a fine house upon the site, which was used by him for several years as a place of business. The building was finally converted into a hotel, being known now as "The Raleigh."

Nothing notable occurred during the administration of Dr. Gunnell. He was an affable, genial man, who gave no cause for public dissatisfaction, and who probably had no opportunity of doing anything to gain extraordinary popularity. He remained in office two years only, being succeeded on the 10th of July, 1841, by the man whom he had displaced—Dr. William Jones.

The receipts of the office during the last fiscal year of Dr. Gunnell's incumbency amounted to \$47,885.40. His salary remained as it was during the administration of his predecessor, and the force of the office was substantially unchanged.

The first opportunity that was given to Dr. Jones after he had got fairly installed the second time, to remove the post-office from the place selected by his predecessor, he took advantage of, as is shown by the following notice in the *National Intelligencer* of September 30, 1841:

The city post office has been removed from the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth Street to the large rooms under Carusi's Saloon at the corner of C Street north and Eleventh Street west. Applications for letters and newspapers will be made at the west entrance, on Eleventh Street.

WM. JONES, *Postmaster.*





CARUSI'S SALOON.

Used as Post Office of Washington City, 1841 to 1843.



The building—Carusi's Saloon—to which the post-office was taken, is still standing, though sadly altered. It is now known as Kernan's or the Lyceum Theatre. It was not a saloon in the sense in which that word is now commonly used, but a place of entertainment, to which, throughout its whole use as such, some of the most fashionable and distinguished ladies and gentlemen, not only of the capital city, but of the whole nation, were wont to go. Carusi's, indeed, was one of the great institutions of the federal city.

The post-office did not remain there long. On the 23d of September, 1843, as is seen in the following notice published in the *National Intelligencer*, it was removed to two brick buildings on Seventh Street, between E and F Streets, contiguous to the General Post-Office:

The city post office has been removed to Seventh Street west, immediately north of the General Post Office.

WM. JONES, *Postmaster*.

These buildings were part of several purchased by the government with a view to the ultimate enlargement of the Post-Office Department. They were torn down in 1857, to give place to the new structure; but they ought, if possible, to have been preserved, for in one of them, on the upper floor, was established the first office in the world for the receipt and dispatch of messages by that wonderful invention, the magnetic telegraph. It has been recently suggested by Mr. Geo. C. Maynard, one of our best known electricians, that this historic fact ought to be commemorated by a bronze tablet or some other suitable device in the corridor of the present building over the spot where the old house stood.

Dr. Jones did not leave Carusi's without a row with its proprietors, which led to interesting correspondence,



here given, in which the postmaster, the Messrs. Carusi, and their attorney, the celebrated Amos Kendall, figured:

WASHINGTON, November 7th, 1843.

HON. C. A. WICKLIFFE, Postmaster General.

*Sir:* At the request of the Messrs. Carusi, I called at the Post-Office Department to present the enclosed; but learning that you were at the cabinet, and having little to say, I adopt this method to save your own time and my own.

Messrs. Carusi state the law correctly, as I have had occasion to know by experience. But you will perceive they do not insist on their legal rights if the department will make the repairs a private citizen would under such circumstances be bound to make. As soon as that is done, they are willing to terminate the lease. There is a liberality in this proposition which recommends it to immediate acceptance.

If you should accede to the general proposition, I should be happy to be apprised of it, having a further proposition to make as to the details of repairs.

With high consideration, your obedient servant,

AMOS KENDALL,

For A. & J. E. KENDALL.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6, 1843.

HON. C. A. WICKLIFFE, Postmaster General.

*Sir:* We enclose you a copy of the agreement entered into by us with the postmaster of this city on renting to him the lower apartment of our saloon for a post-office.

By the laws of this district it is not in the power of a lessee to terminate a lease of this kind without six months' notice; yet without giving such notice, the postmaster has abandoned our premises. Not only so, but he has left the apartments occupied by him in a condition not to be occupied by us without extensive repairs.

The government in dealing with private citizens ought to be, and we believe generally is, regulated by the same laws which govern individuals; and we ask and expect no more at its hands than we could enforce if a private citizen had been our lessee. Governed by this rule, we hold the Post-Office Department bound for another year's rent of our apartments, then to be restored to us in good order.

But desiring to occupy the apartments ourselves, and not wishing to subject the department to unnecessary expense,

we are willing to terminate the rent upon receiving possession of our premises put in a state of complete repair.

Not doubting that you will at once recognize not only the legality but the strict justice of our claim to another year's rent and a thorough repair of our apartments at its close, we trust you will see a liberality in our willingness to terminate the rent at an earlier period which will induce you to accede at once to our proposition, and proceed to arrange with us the details for carrying it into effect.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. CARUSI,

For N. and L. CARUSI.

I have rented from Nathaniel and Louis Carusi the lower part of their saloon and premises on Eleventh and C Streets for the yearly sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars, payable quarterly, one hundred dollars of which, out of the first sum, is to be appropriated to fitting up the premises. The proprietors, N. and L. Carusi, reserve the upper parts of the saloon and premises for their own purposes, and are entitled to and are to have free access thereto at all times by the southern door—the said upper rooms to be used, as heretofore, for balls, concerts, and parties. The rent to commence as soon as I get possession.

WM. JONES, *Postmaster.*

Sept. 22, 1841.

POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Nov. 8, 1843.  
HON. C. A. WICKLIFFE, Postmaster General.

*Sir:* The letter of Messrs. A. & J. E. Kendall, on behalf of Messrs. N. and L. Carusi, of yesterday's date, referred to me by you, has been perused, and is herewith returned.

Upon the claim of Messrs. Carusi I respectfully report: That when their rooms were rented by me, with the approbation of the Postmaster General, for the use and accommodation of this office, it was distinctly though verbally understood by Mr. Morfit, the agent of the Messrs. Carusi, and me, that the rooms were to be occupied by the post-office until some "public" building should be provided for it, AND NO LONGER; that so soon as you informed me that you were about to have the buildings recently purchased by the United States on the square on which the General Post-Office stands prepared for the accommodation of the post-office, I deemed it proper, though under no obligation to do so, to notify the

Messrs. Carusi that I should vacate their rooms on or before the 1st of October then next ensuing, and that said notification was made more than three months before the said 1st of October; and that at the time of so notifying the Messrs. Carusi, through Mr. Louis Carusi, no objection whatever was expressed on account of the shortness of the notice, although he expressed his regret that we could not retain his premises permanently.

When I vacated the building, I had the rooms well scoured and cleaned, and directed Mr. Towles, a respectable master builder, to make a careful survey of the premises, and report his opinion as to what repairs ought to be made to restore the apartments to as good a condition as when taken possession of by the office. Mr. Towles reported that nothing appeared to be necessary but to apply one-half of a pair of folding doors, which for the convenience of the office had been cut into two parts. This I offered to have done, but Mr. Carusi refused to accept it. Mr. Towles reports that no other damage has been sustained by the premises than what may be included under the character of "reasonable wear and tear."

It is only necessary to say further that on the 30th of September last the key of the premises was tendered by me, through a competent witness, to Mr. Louis Carusi, which he refused to receive, and that he has to this day failed to specify the damage sustained by his rooms, or the kind or description of repairs required by him.

With very great respect, your obedient servant,

WM. JONES, *Postmaster.*

I think that most persons reading these letters will decide that the postmaster was in the wrong; but he certainly made the best of a bad case.

After Dr. Jones went into office in 1841 its receipts for the first year amounted to \$47,885.40; when he went out in 1845, they had slightly decreased, being only \$47,130.20. This was due, however, not to a lack of public patronage, but to a great reduction in the rates of postage. The population of the city had increased to nearly 40,000.

On the 31st of March, 1845, Dr. Jones was a second time removed from the office of postmaster by a Demo-



cratic President, and Col. Charles K. Gardner, a very distinguished man—one of the heroes of the War of 1812—was appointed to succeed him.

Charles K. Gardner was born in Morris County, New Jersey, in 1787, and in 1791 removed with his parents to Newburg on the Hudson, where he began and finished his education. He was a student of medicine with Dr. Hosack in New York in 1808, when he received the appointment of ensign in the old Sixth Regiment of Infantry of the regular army. In the following year, while on duty at Oswego, he was appointed adjutant of his regiment, and he served as such at various points. At Baton Rouge, Louisiana, General Wade Hampton appointed him his brigade inspector. In July, 1812, he was appointed captain of the Third Artillery, and in the following month General Armstrong, then in command at New York, made him his brigade inspector. In March, 1813, he was in charge of the Adjutant-General's Office at Washington as assistant, but was soon after promoted to be major of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, and ordered to the northern frontier at Sackett's Harbor. He was in the battle of Chrysler's Field. In the following spring he accompanied General Brown's division first from French's Mills to Sackett's Harbor, and then to Buffalo, and in April received the appointment of Adjutant-General with the rank of colonel. For distinguished services on the Niagara frontier he was brevetted lieutenant-colonel, but being then colonel, he declined the honor. In May, 1816, he was recommissioned Adjutant-General of the Army of the North, and in 1818 he married and resigned. In 1822-23 he edited the *New York Patriot*; and was appointed corresponding clerk in the Post-Office Department. In 1829 he became Assistant Postmaster-General, in 1836 Auditor for the Post-Office De-

partment, and still later Surveyor-General of Oregon. In 1845, as above stated, President Polk appointed him postmaster of Washington, the salary of the office still being, as it had been for many years, only \$2,000 a year. Colonel Gardner was a distinguished author also, having written an admirable "Compend of Infantry Tactics" and a very comprehensive "Dictionary of the Army." He died in 1868, and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington. He was an amiable and courteous gentleman, and was uniformly successful throughout life. No matter what happened, Colonel Gardner was on top, or near it. He illustrated the old Arab proverb, "Throw a lucky man into the Nile, and he will come up with a fish in his mouth."

In a postal sense, nothing occurred during the administration of Colonel Gardner that is worthy of special mention. He was an upright, straightforward man, and therefore kept himself free from censure by the Post-Office Department, as well as from the adverse criticism of the people. He was also a popular man, and did whatever was right to accommodate and please the public. The post-office remained in the rooms on Seventh Street, between E and F, though the postal business had increased to such an extent as to render them cramped and unsatisfactory. The gross revenue during the last year of Colonel Gardner's incumbency was \$59,730.18. His salary remained throughout his term \$2,000 a year, though his receipts from box rents no doubt carried it up to \$3,000 or more. It was during Colonel Gardner's administration that postage stamps—now indispensable—first came into general use, although prepayment of postage was still optional.

In 1847 and 1849 we find the following named persons to have been in office:



COL. CHARLES K. GARDNER,  
POSTMASTER OF WASHINGTON CITY,  
1845 TO 1849.





J. E. Kendall, Asst. P. M.,  
Lambert Tree,  
James A. Kennedy,  
Richard Say,  
M. Brooke Jones,  
Thos. L. Noyes,  
Cornelius Cox,  
Michael P. Callan,  
Samuel Crown,  
Josiah W. Hicks,  
J. B. Iardella,

J. T. C. Clark,  
R. H. Brown,  
F. J. Bartlett,  
J. W. Davis,  
J. McLean Gardner,  
C. T. Gardner,  
Wm. T. Jones,  
Josiah Goodrich,  
John H. Tucker,  
Patrick Sweeney,  
Johnson Simonds.

Colonel Gardner's residence was on Capitol Hill.

On the 28th of June, 1849, during the presidency of Zachary Taylor, Colonel Gardner was removed from the office of postmaster—politics being the reason—and William A. Bradley was appointed in his stead.

Mr. Bradley was born in Connecticut, February 25, 1794, and came to this city with his father, Dr. Phineas Bradley, in 1801. The latter purchased in 1809 a tract of land northeast of the city—which is now Glenwood Cemetery—and there lived for nearly half a generation. The old homestead is still standing in the northeast corner of the cemetery tract.

William A. Bradley commenced active life as runner for the Bank of Washington, and as long as he held that position rode horseback daily to and from his father's farm to the bank. From this position he was promoted step by step, until he finally became president of the bank. He was also subsequently president of the Patriotic Bank, which stood at the corner of 7th and D Streets—now occupied by the Lincoln National Bank. He was director in the Franklin Insurance Company from the time of its organization in 1818, and was president of that company at the time of his death. He was for one term mayor of Washington, and filled the office with distinguished ability and impartiality.

He was a heavy mail contractor, and at one time controlled nearly all the mail lines running south from Washington. During the presidential terms of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore he was city postmaster. About 1835 he purchased Analostan Island—the old home of General and Mrs. Mason, who had been long prominent in the social circles of the capital, and were widely and well known for their hospitable entertainments. Mr. Bradley owned this island at the time of his death, but he had not resided there for a long time. He built the large double house on Maryland Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets S. W., now occupied by the Sisters of Charity of St. Dominic's Church, and was a resident there for many years. His house was the resort of Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and other public men of that day, and his hospitality was well known and widely enjoyed. Later he resided on Louisiana Avenue, two doors east from the building now occupied by the District government. He married Miss Sidney Ann Thruston, daughter of Judge Thruston, and four children were born to them, three of whom married, but only one had issue. (There is but one living descendant of Wm. A. Bradley—the daughter of his son Wm. A. Bradley, and wife of Lieutenant Theodore Dewey of the U. S. Navy.)

In July, 1867, Mr. Bradley went to the mountains of Pennsylvania for his health, was taken ill there, and died at Broad Top City, Huntington County, August 28, 1867, in his seventy-fourth year. He was buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

In religion Mr. Bradley was an Episcopalian. He was about five feet ten inches in height, of large and sturdy build, was usually strong and healthy, and he had a face indicative of high character and uncommon energy. He was fond of society, but in an intellectual





WILLIAM A. BRADLEY,  
POSTMASTER OF WASHINGTON CITY,  
1849 TO 1853.



rather than in a fashionable way, and was not only a good raconteur, but was exceedingly pleased to hear good stories from others.

Mr. Bradley was throughout his term a popular and efficient postmaster, though nothing noticeable occurred. He made very few changes in his force, not being disposed to turn out efficient employés, even though they might differ with him as to politics. The assistant postmaster, Mr. Kendall, retired of his own volition, and Mr. William H. Gunnell was appointed to the place. The number of employees was increased somewhat, but the postal business also grew. In 1853, when Mr. Bradley went out of office, the gross receipts had increased to over \$68,000. The salary and emoluments of the postmaster amounted to about \$3,000 a year. No change occurred in the location of the post-office.

A little over two months after the beginning of the presidency of Franklin Pierce—namely, on the 27th of May, 1853—Mr. Bradley was removed as a Whig, and Colonel James G. Berret, a Democrat, succeeded him.

Mr. Berret was born February 12, 1815, in Baltimore County, Maryland. He had the advantage of only two years' education in the county schools. His father was a farmer, and the boy's services being needed on the farm, he soon became a valuable assistant. At sixteen, his father dying, he was thrown on his own resources; but he had pluck and manliness in him, and after lots of hard work and study, before he reached the age of twenty, he had become one of the best farmers in the county. He took an active interest also in public business, and when that part of the county in which he lived was created Carroll County, he was elected, though only twenty-one years of age, a member of the State legislature. In this capacity he served two terms, and



then declined a reëlection. He came to Washington City in 1839, having received an appointment as clerk in the office of the Treasurer of the United States, and remained in that position until 1848, when he accepted the position of chief clerk of the Pension Bureau. This post he resigned in the following year, and went into business as a prosecutor of government claims, in which he was very successful. Three years afterwards he was made postmaster. In the Know-nothing election troubles in Washington in 1857, he was the chief adviser of the mayor, Dr. Wm. B. Magruder. In 1858 he was elected mayor of Washington, and in 1860 was a candidate for reëlection against Richard Wallach, when he was again triumphant. In 1861, while still mayor, he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and was consequently arrested on the 24th of August, 1861, as a Southern sympathizer or supporter, by order of the Secretary of War, and taken a prisoner to Fort Lafayette, N. Y. In September, 1861, on resigning the mayoralty, he was released, and a few days later he returned to Washington, to find that during his confinement his late competitor before the people, Mr. Wallach, had been elected by the City councils to fill the office. Colonel Berret, as he was now generally called, bore these troubles and humiliations philosophically, and remained a citizen of Washington, and was supposed to be loyal to the government. He afterwards became a personal friend of both Lincoln and Grant, the latter appointing him commissioner of police in 1873.

Colonel Berret was a man of strong convictions, and of very high character. He was always an active citizen, and a lovable and popular man; and when he died, on the 14th of April, 1901, he was sincerely mourned by the whole population of the great city he had helped

to build up and beautify. In person, Colonel Berret was tall and graceful. In his younger days he was quite handsome, and even in his extreme old age he was a very noticeable, dignified, and attractive gentleman. In religion he was a Roman Catholic.

As postmaster, Colonel Berret made no innovations. He retained most of the men who had been in office under his predecessors, and as a consequence, the business of the post-office was attended to promptly and efficiently. Mr. Lambert Tree again became the chief clerk of the office, or assistant postmaster—a position which he continued to fill under many of Colonel Berret's successors, and nearly up to the day of his death. The post-office was continued in the old location on Seventh Street during the greater part of Colonel Berret's incumbency. In 1857, however, it was transferred to the first floor rooms in the F Street front of the extension of the Post-Office Department building, which part of the structure had then been completed. When that removal was effected the old Seventh Street buildings were torn down, and the extension was finished shortly afterwards on that side also. The emoluments of the postmaster remained about the same, though the business of the office had greatly increased. In the last year of Colonel Berret's administration the gross receipts were about \$83,000.

It was during Colonel Berret's term that the old system of optional prepayment of postage was discontinued, and compulsory prepayment established. This was required by the act of Congress of March 3, 1855. The registration of letters, also, was begun under this same law.

On the 30th of March, 1858, during the presidency of James Buchanan, Dr. William Jones became postmaster for the third time, and he held the place until the break-

ing out of the civil war. In all, he filled the office about seventeen years—a far longer time than any of his predecessors had occupied it except Mr. Munroe, whose term, it will be remembered, covered a period of thirty consecutive years. The office continued to be run on the same lines as were followed by Colonel Berret, and few changes were made. The revenues of the office increased but very slightly, the last year of Dr. Jones's term—1861—showing a total of only \$85,662. Nothing noticeable occurred during this period. Dr. Jones was removed in May, 1861. His residence was on the south side of C between Third and Four-and-a-half Streets.

On the 10th of May, 1861, Lewis Clephane—a pronounced Republican, and an ardent admirer of the President, Abraham Lincoln—was appointed postmaster. He was the first of Washington City's postmasters who were born within its limits.

Mr. Clephane was of a very old Scotch family—the son of James Clephane, who came to this country from Edinburgh in 1817.

Mr. Clephane was born in Washington, D. C., March 13, 1825, and was educated at "Strahan's School." In January, 1847, when he was but twenty-one years of age, Mr. Gamaliel Bailey established the *National Era* in this city—a pronounced anti-slavery paper—and Mr. Clephane went into that office, remaining there as its business manager during the entire time of its publication, and after Mr. Bailey's death, closed the affairs for Mrs. Bailey in 1860.

He was one of the founders of the Republican party, being a delegate to the Pittsburg Convention of 1856, and always most active in promoting its principles; therefore in 1860, in company with Mr. W. J. Murtagh, he established the *National Republican*, but severed his



practical connection with it when he was appointed postmaster of Washington City by President Lincoln and entered on the duties of that office. In this position his duties were especially arduous, owing to the beginning of the war, which made this the distributing office for the vast army stationed around the city—the usual amount of mail matter being suddenly quadrupled. On March 15, 1863, he resigned the postmastership to become collector of internal revenue, which office he filled till the war revenue was not needed.

Later, he was engaged in many private business enterprises, and at the time of his death, February 12, 1897, was president of the Horton Basket Company, and of the Virginia Brick Company; also director in the Second National Bank, and in the National Safe Deposit Saving and Trust Company.

He was married in 1862, and his widow, one daughter, and three sons now reside in this city.

In person Mr. Clephane was small and spare. He wore spectacles, and had the appearance of nervous intellectuality. He was somewhat reserved and cold in manner, but was really a warm-hearted man, and quite companionable and attractive to those with whom he was intimate. He was a very honorable man. One incident of many may be cited as an illustration of this. When Mr. A. M. Clapp became the managing editor and controller of the *National Republican*, Mr. Clephane still retained of his former holdings one share of the company's stock, the face value of which was \$500, and this share, it seems, was necessary to Mr. Clapp's control of the paper. The latter being naturally somewhat uneasy lest this share should get into the hands of parties antagonistic to him, Mr. Clephane voluntarily and informally assured him that the stock should never be used to his detriment. As long as Mr. Clapp was

connected with the company, this promise was faithfully kept, although offers of \$1,000, then of \$2,000, then \$3,000, and finally of \$5,000, were made to Mr. Clephane for it. Ultimately, after Mr. Clapp had of his own volition given up the control of the paper, the stock was sold by Mr. Clephane for less than its par value.

The gross revenues of the post-office during Mr. Clephane's term increased enormously. During the last year of it—the year ending June 30, 1863—they amounted to nearly \$306,000.

Upon the resignation of Lewis Clephane as postmaster, Sayles J. Bowen, who had been a resident of Washington for about eighteen years, succeeded him, the date of the appointment being March 16, 1863. He was born in the township of Scipio, Cayuga County, New York, October 7, 1813, and died in Washington City, December 16, 1896, in his eighty-fourth year. His parents were from Massachusetts, and were among the first settlers in Cayuga County. He assisted his father in the labors of the farm, received a good education in Aurora Academy, and taught school from the age of seventeen during the winter months. From 1838 until 1842 he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, after which he removed south, and in 1845, during the administration of James K. Polk, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Treasury Department. From this place he was removed in 1848, when he went into the business of prosecuting claims against the government, in which he was unusually successful. From 1856 to 1860 he was in politics, supporting the Republican party, and on the election of Abraham Lincoln was taken into his confidence. In 1861 he was appointed commissioner of police for the District of Columbia—a place then of great responsibility—and in the same year was made

disbursing officer of the Senate. In 1862 he became collector of internal revenue for the district, and he held this post until March 16, 1863, when, as above stated, he received the appointment of postmaster. During the war all the mails for the Army of the Potomac originated at or were distributed through the Washington office, increasing enormously its duties and responsibilities; yet during Mr. Bowen's administration everything was done by him efficiently and faithfully, and to the satisfaction of the government and the public. He remained postmaster until July, 1868, when he resigned, to become the mayor of Washington, to which office he had been elected by popular vote.

In 1870, running again for the office of mayor, he was defeated, after which he ceased to hold any public place of prominence. In his extreme old age, he was somewhat straitened in his means, so much so that he was compelled to seek an humble situation in the department where he had first become publicly known. He was a great friend of the colored people, advocating the establishment of schools for their education, and spending \$20,000 of his own money for their support. He was also the friend of the poor and unfortunate of all races, and aided them in every way possible. Mr. Bowen was a man of temperate and excellent habits, true in his friendships, and faithful to duty. In the several positions held by him he disbursed many millions of government money, yet not a dollar was misappropriated, or failed of being legally and justly accounted for. In religion he was a Unitarian. He was married July 2, 1835, to Miss Mary Barker, daughter of John A. Barker, of Venice, Cayuga County, N. Y., a lady of very estimable character, who died June 2, 1882. Two years afterwards—May 27, 1884—he was married to Mrs. Bessie Bentley, of Morristown, New Jersey.



He left no children by either wife. He was rather tall and well built, of a mild and benevolent aspect, was slow in all his motions, guarded and deliberate in speech, and very strong and pertinacious in his convictions. During part of his public career he was quite unpopular, but, taken in its entirety, his life was that of an upright, conscientious man, who gained and deserved the favorable regard of his countrymen.

During the entire term of Mr. Bowen as postmaster the office remained in the Post-Office Department building, on the F Street side. The revenue was not nearly so great as during Mr. Clephane's incumbency, the receipts for 1868, the last year of his term, being slightly over \$111,000.

Three very great changes in the postal system, bringing about the most advantageous results to the public, occurred during this time. The first was the abandonment of the old penny-post system, which had existed from colonial times, and the substitution of the free-delivery system, by act of Congress of March 3, 1863, under which uniformed letter-carriers, getting a regular salary from the government, are required to make delivery of mail matter, and to collect from established boxes throughout the city, without direct charge to the patrons of the post-office. The second change was the introduction of the money-order system, in November, 1864, under the act of Congress of May 17 of that year—a system whose business has grown throughout the country from about four million dollars of issued orders in 1865 to nearly three hundred and thirty-seven million in the present year, and which extends to nearly all the countries of the world. The third change was the introduction of what is called the return-request system, under which the sender of a letter, by a designated form of request made upon it, may have it re-

turned to him free of charge in any prescribed time, in case of its non-delivery. These several changes, it need not be told, added very largely to the work of the office.

Upon the resignation of Sayles J. Bowen, Colonel Charles M. Alexander was appointed, his term beginning July 27, 1868. He held the office less than one year, being succeeded on the 12th of May, 1869, by James M. Edmunds. He was appointed as a friend of the President, Andrew Johnson, and was removed, purely for political reasons, when Johnson's administration ended.

Charles Madison Alexander was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, on the 8th of November, 1832. He was descended both paternally and maternally from a long line of distinguished ancestors, being of Scotch and French origin on his father's side, and of English and Welsh on that of his mother. After completing his studies at Marietta College, Ohio, he came to Washington—in 1856—and at once engaged in the practice of patent law, in which business he continued until 1861. Though a southern man by birth and social affiliations, he was loyal to the Union, and enthusiastically in favor of maintaining it; so that when President Lincoln made his first call for troops, he promptly responded by enlisting in the old National Rifles of Washington. When his term of service in that organization expired, he assisted in forming the Second Regiment of Infantry of the District of Columbia, and was commissioned major of it. His soldierly qualities were so highly esteemed that in a few months he was promoted to the colonelcy of the regiment, and in that position served about three years, part of the time as brigade commander in Virginia. When the war was over he again entered into practice as a patent attorney

in Washington, and soon achieved prominence and success; but he relinquished his business a second time upon being appointed postmaster in 1868. Upon his retirement from that office he again returned to his practice, and continued in it until his death, which occurred on the 27th of January, 1891. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D. C.

Colonel Alexander was married in 1855 to Miss Eliza H. Dow, of New Albany, Ind., great niece of Judge John McLean, a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and had by her four children. She, together with two of the children—a son and daughter—is still living. His appearance was such as always commanded attention. He was over six feet in height, very erect, graceful in his movements, and martial in his bearing. He had a long, flowing blonde beard, comely features, pale skin and blue eyes. While vigorous and energetic, he was refined and amiable, and quite attractive to women, men and children.

As postmaster Colonel Alexander was efficient and popular. The most notable thing he did, perhaps, was his increasing the pay of nearly all the clerks in the post-office, and that, too, without first obtaining the authority of the Post-Office Department—an act that was unquestionably right, and that received the ultimate sanction of his superiors. The receipts of the office during the year of his term amounted to \$115,000.

On the 27th of July, 1868, upon the retirement of Colonel Alexander, Mr. James M. Edmunds—generally known as Judge Edmunds—was appointed postmaster. He was born in Niagara County, New York, August 23, 1810, where he received a good common school and academical education. His family, both on the father's and the mother's side, were from New England. His boyhood was spent on his father's farm. At the age



of sixteen he became a country school teacher, which occupation he followed until 1831, when he accompanied his father, Robert Edmunds, to Michigan, becoming a merchant in the village of Ypsilanti. He took a great interest in the educational facilities of that place, and for ten years was an inspector of schools. He also held a number of other municipal offices. In 1839 he was elected to the State senate of Michigan, and in 1846 to the lower house of the legislature. In 1847 he was the Whig candidate for governor, but was not elected, and in 1851 he was a member of the constitutional convention, where he rendered valuable services to the State. In 1853 he removed to Detroit, and entered extensively into the lumbering business, extending his operations to Saginaw and Tuscola Counties. From 1857 to 1861 he was comptroller of Detroit, which office he gave up to become Commissioner of the General Land Office in Washington. Resigning that position in 1866, he was chosen postmaster of the United States Senate, which in turn he relinquished in May, 1869, to become postmaster of the city of Washington, which position he held until his death. From 1855 to 1861 he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Michigan. In Washington he was president of the Michigan Soldiers' Relief Association from its organization in 1861, and he was also president of the National Council of the Union League of America from its inception in 1862 to the year 1869, when he retired. For the last two or three years of his life he suffered much from ill health, and his death, which occurred on the 14th of December, 1879, was attended with great anguish and suffering. Judge Edmunds was a man of great intellectual strength; he was, however, more of what people generally call a man of good "horse" sense. He was a silent, rather reserved man,

evidently behaving in conformity with the French proverb, "Speak little and well if you wish to be esteemed a man of merit." He was the intimate friend of Lincoln, Grant and other great men of his day, and in the dark days of the Civil War, through his wise counsel, great influence and active coöperation with the national administration, he rendered invaluable services to the country. Senator Zachariah Chandler, of Michigan, who was one of his closest friends, regarded him, in politics and in statecraft, as one of the foremost men of his day. He was six feet in height, stooped slightly, was homely in face and rather ungainly in form, appearing more like a plain, practical backwoodsman or farmer than a man of affairs; and though he was the valued associate of many of the nation's rulers, and knew how to deport himself well in the company of scholars and statesmen, he always appeared to be somewhat ill at ease and to love retirement. He spent much of his time during his later years upon his farm in Fairfax County, Virginia, near Gunston, the home of the celebrated George Mason. In honor, friendship, truth, and fidelity to public duty he was absolutely without blemish.

Judge Edmunds's administration of the office of postmaster was exceedingly popular and successful, the annual revenues increasing in that time nearly three-fold. In 1869 the gross receipts amounted to about \$115,000; in the fiscal year 1880, half of which was in his term, they amounted to over \$320,000.

The office remained during almost the whole of Judge Edmunds's administration in the F Street side of the Post-Office Department building. In November, 1879, about a month before he died, and while he was on his death-bed, it was removed to a building known as the Seaton House, originally used as a hotel, situated on

the south side of Louisiana Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets. It is now occupied by the Central Union Mission. This building was probably the least adapted to post-office work of any that has ever been used. It was not only inconvenient to the public, but it was wretchedly arranged for the duties of the employés, and badly ventilated. To add to its unsatisfactory condition, the Post-Office Department chose to make it a storehouse for mail-bags, which in a few months began to mildew and rot in the cellars where they were stored, and this rendered the whole building foul and unsanitary.

The letter-carrier system increased very greatly under Judge Edmunds; so did the the money-order and registry business. The salary of the postmaster was \$4,000, without any additional emoluments. The assistant postmaster was for many years Lambert Tree; afterwards, Lewis Porter, a Michigan man, became assistant.

Shortly after the death of Judge Edmunds—namely, on the 8th of January, 1880—Daniel B. Ainger, of Michigan, was appointed postmaster by President Hayes—Judge David M. Key, of Tennessee, being at the time Postmaster-General.

He was born in Bellevue, O., March 8, 1844, and received an excellent education in the common schools of that place. Before he was of age he entered the Union army, and served with honorable distinction until the close of the war. When mustered out he went into business in Michigan, and achieved success in it, acquiring, among other things, a very wide and favorable acquaintanceship. After his appointment as postmaster of Washington he served nearly three years, when he again entered the walks of business life. He has since held the position of banking commissioner of



Michigan, of deputy auditor-general of the same State, and of receiver of the First National Bank of Benton Harbor, Mich., in which position he won the unusual and enjoyable distinction of returning to the depositors of the bank one hundred cents on the dollar for their deposits. Colonel Ainger is now vice-president and treasurer of the Federal Life Insurance Company of Chicago, which institution he actively assisted in organizing. He stands very high socially, is a Knight Templar, and has a wide fellowship in the Masonic orders. His administration of the office of postmaster of Washington was marked by energy, impartiality, and absolute integrity, and these same high qualities have characterized him in every position he has held. He is a man of warm heart, cool head, and excellent judgment. He is not a dreamer or a theorist. He practically illustrates the saying of Thomas Carlyle: "Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand." He is somewhat above medium size, strongly built, graceful, with a well-poised head on broad shoulders and a face of great firmness and determination.

Colonel Ainger's assistant postmaster was also a man of exceptional ability—still one of Washington's most respected and talented citizens—Colonel Myron M. Parker.

During Colonel Ainger's administration the post-office remained in the Seaton Building—on Louisiana Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The salary of the postmaster was \$4,000 per annum.

Upon the retirement of Colonel Ainger, Thomas L. Tullock, who for a number of years had been the financial clerk of the office, became postmaster, his commission as such being dated November 25, 1882.

He was a citizen of New Hampshire, having been born there, in the city of Manchester, in 1820. At one time he was Secretary of State of New Hampshire, and in 1872 was secretary of the Republican Congressional Committee, in each of which positions he was faithful and conscientious. After his appointment as postmaster, he labored with great zeal in preparing for certain reforms he contemplated in the management of the post-office—not infrequently devoting fourteen or fifteen hours a day to his work. This is supposed to have injured his health. At any rate, he was soon compelled to give up the care of the office to other hands, and to seek restoration to strength in another climate. He first went south—to North Carolina—but realizing no benefit from a residence there, he came north, and staid for some months in Atlantic City, where he died on the 20th of June, 1883, aged sixty-three years, having held the position of postmaster only seven months.

Mr. Tullock was a very honorable man, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a prominent Mason. He was also a successful business man, and before he became postmaster had acquired a considerable estate. He had no opportunity to do anything for the betterment of the city's postal service; but the public respected him, and the employés of the office without exception loved him, so that his death was almost universally deplored.

The post-office remained in the Seaton Building during Mr. Tullock's term.

After the death of Mr. Tullock—Frank B. Conger, of Michigan, became postmaster, his appointment being dated June 29, 1883. He had been assistant postmaster under Mr. Tullock, having resigned the position of business manager of the *Washington National Re-*

*publican* to take it. He was the youngest man who ever filled the office of postmaster of the city.

Mr. Conger was born in Port Huron, Mich., May 11, 1851. He is one of the sons of Omar D. Conger, who ably represented one of the districts of Michigan in the National House of Representatives for ten or twelve years, and who afterwards became one of its Senators. Mr. Conger received his education in the common schools. His first public employment was as clerk of the Committee of Commerce of the House of Representatives, of which his father was chairman, in the Forty-second and Forty-third Congresses. He married the daughter of S. P. Brown, a prominent citizen of Washington City, and has had five children. He is still living.

Mr. Conger is a man of great energy and ability, and absolutely fearless of public criticism. As postmaster he was a strict disciplinarian, but was very just. Every man received under him fair treatment. During the whole of Mr. Conger's term the post-office remained in the Seaton Building.

By a contract, made five years after the occupancy of the building began, between the owners and Postmaster-General John Wanamaker, the rental was fixed at \$8,000 a year.

During Mr. Conger's time the salary of the postmaster was, by act of Congress approved March 3, 1883, increased to \$5,000 a year. The assistant postmaster was Henry Sherwood.

For the year ending June 30, 1884, the first fiscal year of Mr. Conger's term, the gross receipts of the office amounted to \$444,496. For the year ending June 30, 1887, his last full year, they amounted to only about \$332,000. This falling off was due mainly to the reduction in the letter rate of postage from three to two



cents, which under the provisions of the act of Congress of March 3, 1883, went into operation on the 1st of October of that year.

During Mr. Conger's term the special-delivery system, by which letters specially paid for and stamped are immediately delivered upon arrival at the office of destination, by messengers employed for the purpose, was put into effect.

On the 30th of January, 1888, John W. Ross, of Illinois, was appointed postmaster, Grover Cleveland being President of the United States, and Don M. Dickinson Postmaster-General.

Mr. Ross was born on the 23d of June, 1841, at Lewiston, Fulton County, Illinois, a village that was founded in 1821 by his grandfather, Ossian M. Ross, of New York, a soldier of the War of 1812. His father was Lewis W. Ross, a native of Seneca Falls, N. Y., who came to Illinois as a boy when the village of Lewiston was founded. He was a prominent lawyer, a delegate to the Illinois legislature for two terms, and a member of Congress from 1863 to 1869.

Up to 1856 Mr. Ross's education had been obtained in the private schools in Lewiston; he then went to Illinois College, and remained there until 1862, after which he attended the Harvard Law School, and was admitted to the bar of Illinois in January, 1866. He at once entered upon the practice of his profession in Lewiston, and had been thus engaged but two years, when he was elected as a Democrat to the State legislature. In 1870 he was again elected, but after serving out his term he decided to come east. In 1873 he established himself as a lawyer in Washington, and soon became one of its leading practitioners. In 1883 he became one of the lecturers in Georgetown University, and was afterwards honored with the degree of LL.D.

In 1886 he became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools. On the 30th of January, 1888, he became postmaster of Washington, and held the office until the 12th of September, 1890, when he resigned to accept the position of commissioner of the District of Columbia, which he held until his death, on the 29th of July, 1902.

At the time of his death Mr. Ross was probably the best known and most popular man in the District of Columbia. He was in every respect a gentleman—polite, considerate, dignified, handsome, intelligent, and sweet-tempered. He thoroughly exemplified the dictum of Emerson: "Repose and cheerfulness are the badge of the gentleman." He possessed such suavity of manner, and such a sympathy with the feelings of people who approached him, that he appeared to be everybody's friend; and though he could refuse his favor and deny requests that were made upon him, he did it in such a way that he never gave offence. He was a man, too, of very pronounced ability.

During the whole of Mr. Ross's administration as postmaster, the post-office was kept in the Seaton building, much to the disgust of both post-office employees and the public.

For the fiscal year 1888, the first of Mr. Ross's term, the gross receipts were \$352,045. In 1890—his last year—they had increased to \$442,921.

The salary of the postmaster was \$5,000.

When Mr. Ross resigned the position of postmaster he was succeeded, September 12, 1890, by Henry Sherwood, of Michigan, who had been assistant postmaster for seven years, Benjamin Harrison being President of the United States, and John Wanamaker Postmaster-General. He was born in Avon, Livingston County, New York, on the 2d of February, 1844, and was given

a common school education. In 1860 he went to Michigan, and remained there until shortly after the breaking out of the Civil War. Up to this time his life had been spent upon the farm of his parents. In 1862 he went into the army, serving in the famous Fourth Michigan Cavalry until 1865, when he was honorably discharged on account of a gunshot wound, received in the battle of Latimer's Mills, near Kenesaw, Georgia, which resulted in the amputation of his left leg. In December, 1865, he left the hospital and came to Washington, where, on the recommendation of Senator Zach. Chandler, he was appointed to a clerkship in the War Department. In 1868 he returned to Michigan, and upon the assembling of the Fortieth Congress was appointed an assistant doorkeeper in the House of Representatives. In the Forty-third and Forty-seventh Congresses—in 1872 and 1880—he was elected postmaster of the House of Representatives, and on the 1st of August, 1883, was appointed assistant postmaster of the City of Washington, serving in that position acceptably under the terms of Frank B. Conger and John W. Ross. In September, 1890, as before stated, he was appointed postmaster, and served until he was removed, for political reasons, in October, 1894, during the second presidential term of Grover Cleveland. After his removal from office, Captain Sherwood went back to Michigan, where he was engaged in farming and politics. In 1899 he came again to Washington, and is now holding a clerical position in the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. He married Miss Mary Ellen Harvey, of Washington, D. C., in May, 1882, and has had two children—a son and daughter—both of age and now living. He is about five feet nine inches in height, is a strong, able-bodied man, of sturdy build, has a pleasing countenance, and is prob-



ably one of the most even-tempered men in the world: nothing disturbs his equanimity and self-containment. If he does not really believe, he seems to act upon, the theory of Plato, the philosopher, that "nothing in the affairs of mankind is worth serious anxiety." He usually walks with an artificial leg, although occasionally he is compelled to use crutches. He is not a member of any church, but his affiliations have generally been with the Methodists and Presbyterians. In his moral character he is above reproach.

As assistant postmaster under Mr. Ross, Captain Sherwood did much to inaugurate and foster the postal stations of the city, and as postmaster he had them greatly extended.

The first official act of Postmaster Sherwood was to appoint as assistant postmaster Captain S. E. Merrill—a veteran of the Civil War, an efficient and experienced postal officer, and a gentleman. Later on he did a number of things creditable to his administration, and calculated to better the service.

Among other things, he urged the removal of the post-office from the Seaton building, which had been occupied for about eleven years before he became postmaster, and it was at his suggestion that the Union building was erected, on G between Sixth and Seventh Streets, into which the office was moved in 1892, and where it remained during the rest of his term of office.

The rental of this new building—the first two floors and half of the basement only being occupied by the post-office—was at first \$16,000 a year, the government furnishing the elevator service and the heat; afterwards it was increased to \$22,500 a year, the proprietors of the building furnishing the heat and elevator service. The accommodations here were very good, although the business of the office soon required more commodious quarters.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, the first full year of Captain Sherwood's incumbency, the gross revenue of the office was \$502,569. For the year ending June 30, 1884, his last full year, it was \$555,492.

Promptly at the close of Captain Sherwood's four-year term as postmaster—namely on the 30th of October, 1894—Mr. James Polk Willett was appointed as a Democrat to succeed him—Grover Cleveland being President of the United States for the second time, and Wilson S. Bissell being Postmaster-General.

Mr. Willett got a portion of his name from a peculiar circumstance. He was born on the 27th of November, 1844, just as a Democratic procession, on its way to the city hall to celebrate the election of James K. Polk as President of the United States, was passing his father's house. He was named, therefore, James Polk Willett, and so his career as a Democrat began before he was put in his cradle. His father was Voltaire Willett, a prominent dealer in live stock in Washington, in which business he amassed a considerable fortune. He attended the Washington schools until the year 1861, when he left for Charlotte Hall, St. Mary's County, Md., where he finished his education. He afterwards engaged in mercantile pursuits, in 1871 being associated with William D. Ruoff in the hat business under the firm name of Willett & Ruoff. In 1872 he married Miss Laura A. Welsh, daughter of one of the well-known millers of Georgetown, D. C., by whom he had four sons and a daughter, all of whom, with their mother, are still living. On the 30th of October, 1894, Mr. Willett was appointed postmaster of Washington, and this office he held until the 30th of June, 1899. His death was very tragical. He fell from the 4th floor of the post-office building into the shaft of one of the elevators, and was almost instantly killed.

Mr. Willett was an easy-going, even-tempered man, who philosophically met the troubles and worries of life, and managed, even under adverse circumstances, to have a generally good time. He had many friends, who sincerely mourned his sad taking off, and very few enemies. He was a prominent Mason, and was at the time of his death secretary and treasurer of the Woodmont Gun and Rod Club.

In appearance Mr. Willett was a handsome man, about five feet nine inches in height, always well dressed, and with a quick, active step. He was not a member of any church, but affiliated with the Episcopalians.

As postmaster Mr. Willett made no innovation upon the existing order of things. He found the office well managed, and he was content to have it kept so, without experimenting with new things or new men.

One event occurred which is quite notable. The post-office was removed from the Union building on G Street between Sixth and Seventh, which it had been occupying for six years, to the new government building on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, where it still is.

The gross revenue of the office in the first fiscal year of Mr. Willett's term, ending June 30, 1895, was \$563,532; in his last year, ending June 30, 1899, it was \$661,156. His compensation, under the act of March 3, 1883, was \$5,000 a year, though, under the general law applying to all other offices, it should have been \$6,000.

On the 29th of May, 1899, John A. Merritt, of Lockport, N. Y., was commissioned postmaster to succeed Mr. Willett, but he did not enter upon the duties of the office until the first of July following. This was in order to allow Mr. Willett to finish the quarter's business, which, by reason of Cuban and Porto Rican postal



affairs—previously, under the policy of the government, connected with the administration of the Washington City post-office—was in a somewhat complicated condition. Mr. Merritt was born in Tecumseh, Mich., November 24, 1851, where he remained until he was eight years old, when his parents moved to Lockport, N. Y. Here he received a common school education, and upon reaching manhood became engaged in mercantile and other business pursuits. In 1880, after studying law for three years, he was admitted to practice as an attorney before the courts of the state of New York, and soon after formed a law partnership with N. A. Bradley, which still exists. In 1875, being then only twenty-four years of age, he was the Republican nominee for sheriff of Niagara County, and though failing of election, received a vote which indicated great personal popularity. In 1880 he was more fortunate in his political aspirations, having been elected by a large majority county clerk of Niagara County for three years, to which office he was reelected in 1883. In 1890 he was appointed by President Harrison postmaster of Lockport, and held the office for four years. He has been a member of the Board of Education of that city for eleven years, and for five years has been its president. In 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley Third Assistant Postmaster-General, which position he resigned on the 30th of June, 1899, to become postmaster of the City of Washington. He is an active man of business, being interested in a number of manufacturing enterprises, and is now secretary and treasurer of the New York Paper Mills. He was married in 1876 to Miss Seraph Hyde, of Lockport, who is yet living, and he has one son. Besides being a business man, he has devoted much of his life to politics, both local and national, and he has

the reputation of being one of the most astute and upright leaders of his party in the state of New York. He is a gentleman of very pleasing address, of amiable character, and of such an obliging temper that his inclinations are always to do a good turn to his fellow men wherever that is practicable; yet he does not allow this to lead him astray, and he has rather an unusual amount of firmness and courage tempered by sound discretion and practical common sense.

The business of the post-office has greatly increased since he took charge of it, and it is now, owing to his vigilant oversight and to improved methods of business, in a very satisfactory condition. A few items of its affairs, from many that might be cited, will serve to show this.

The number of mails dispatched by the office to other places is 68 a day; the number received is 76. The number of dispatches between the office and its stations is 122 a day. The number of daily separations comprehended in all these receipts and dispatches is over 500. This is a very large business, and yet the number of material errors made in transacting it is comparatively small.

The local delivery service has grown to very large proportions, so that practically the entire District of Columbia is now served by letter-carriers, whose duties are rendered with promptitude and correctness.

The gross postal revenue has also greatly advanced, being now nearly \$900,000 a year. Before Mr. Merritt's term has expired, the office will probably be in the million-dollar class.

The office is not only self-supporting, but it turns over to the Treasury a yearly net income of about \$112,000, notwithstanding the fact that over 75 per cent. of the business of the office consists of the receipt

and dispatch of official mails, which do not afford one cent of revenue.

The entire disbursements of the office now amount to about three and a half million dollars, comprehending expenses of the office proper, payments of money-orders, and miscellaneous expenditures authorized by the several bureaus of the Post-Office Department.

The total number of employees of the office is 960.

The postmaster's salary is \$6,000 per annum.

The quarters now occupied by the post-office are very satisfactory. The accommodations for taking in and sending out mails are almost perfect, and the work is performed systematically, economically, and with little or no friction. It is already evident, however, that in a few years, owing to the growth of business, and the encroachments which the Post-Office Department must of necessity make upon the space allotted to the city post-office, there will be new quarters needed; and these should be of such a character as to exactly fit post-office needs, and be sufficient for at least fifty years to come.



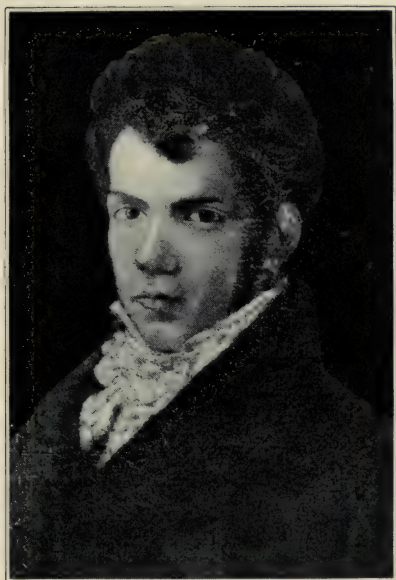
## THE SEAL OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

By ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON.

(Read before the Society November 10, 1902.)

The model of the seal adopted by the Columbia Historical Society has been in existence fourscore years and is recognized as one of, if not the most exquisite work of art, adorning the national capital. It is the Franzoni clock or Clio, the Muse of History.

In the spring of 1894, Dr. Toner, our much-lamented president, took this society to his hospitable home where we met until he was so silently summoned to enter into rest. At the first board meeting of that fall, at my suggestion, a committee was appointed to design a seal to be used by the society. The president selected for this committee, of which I was made chairman, Dr. Marcus Baker and Dr. Swan M. Burnett, Dr. Toner of course being a member *ex-officio*. Before the "Committee on the Seal" I strenuously urged the adoption of an engraving of the marble clock above the north door of the Hall of Statuary—old Hall of Representatives—claiming this significant and classic creation as our special right, inasmuch as we are pledged to the service of the Muse of History. The committee agreed with me, but we found such determined opposition from the president that we did not for the time being urge action. Dr. Toner said he thought it would be *too common*, as he had seen it used as an advertisement. To this I replied I had seen, quite recently, Murillo's divine "Annunciation" on a circus wagon,



CARLO FRANZONI.

Born at Carrara, Italy, about 1785.

Died at Washington City, 1833.

From a portrait by Bonani (1818), in possession of  
Dr. Chas. W. Franzoni.





and "The Chocolate Girl" on a bottle of quack medicine. However, we soon discovered that the real objection to the clock was the determination to use for our seal the figure of Columbus standing on the globe, a quaint statuette of bronze which Dr. Toner had found in his unceasing quest for the antique and the beautiful. I hoped to have had that little figure to show you tonight, but it is at present unattainable, being in the Toner collection at the Library of Congress. It would have given pleasure to gratify the president, but really Columbus was impossible. There were several meetings of the committee with report of "Progress" for which false statement conscience had to be salved, for in truth we never moved an inch.

All who knew Dr. Toner recognized that one of his strongest and finest traits was a quiet resistance until opposition weakened and his desire was achieved. As his judgment was sound and guided by truth as well as sentiment, this very characteristic was the force which made him a benefactor and such a fine citizen.

When the attention of President Kasson was directed to this committee of *long* standing, he reinforced it by adding Mr. Justice Hagner. We soon agreed and put a photograph of the Franzoni clock in the hands of the Neale Engraving Company with an eminently satisfactory result. The seal was accepted by the society and we assuredly realize "a thing of beauty is a joy forever." We claim that as seal and insignia it is comprehensive and significant. The wheel to the car of time presents the dial of the clock and the calm figure impartially inscribes passing events. It charms with its happy symbolism and in the fact that this clock was created here, in the very heart of the nation; therefore, by right of heritage, it belongs to the "Columbia Historical Society," which, with reverential purpose,

has assumed the pious duty of guarding local history. Yet, I am not entirely satisfied. This seal should be more generally known, exhibited on all our cards, invitations, not alone on receipts and the title page of our Annual Records, used not as an advertisement, but as an introduction, until the citizens of the District realize that they have a right to it, and unite with us in preserving history, which, though made here, is not without interest to the entire country.

Naturally, we wish to establish the history of this clock. That is difficult. As early as 1805, it is said, at the suggestion of Benjamin Latrobe and with the approval of Mr. Jefferson, this government engaged several Italian artists to decorate the capitol at Washington, chief of whom was Giuseppi Franzoni, sculptor, friend and compatriot of Canova. He was a brilliant artist of the Canova school. Franzoni brought to America a lovely wife of fifteen, who left with her parents a little daughter of three months. He was accompanied by artists in other lines, painters, engravers, modellers, carvers, etc., and he brought also a retinue of servants.

Antoine Canova was the first choice, but he was engaged in his splendid work for the Duke of Tuscany, so his relative, Franzoni, accepted the proposal. These children of the sun had a dread, which in many cases seems to have been prophetic, of our inhospitable climate. Though few of them returned to their native shores; the last penny of contract was exacted, which provided return money for each individual, and whether they died here or returned to Italy—the claim was allowed “to close contract with the United States.” It is rather amusing to read in *Congressional Records* of “return money” being allowed for people who had for years rested in American cemeteries. They were not

allowed extravagant remuneration, the largest sum never reaching five dollars per day. Though Franzoni was a sculptor of established reputation in the art world of Florence, he received this niggardly sum. It is, therefore, a matter of congratulation that these claims were approved. They worked together for eight years. New arrivals were added and they formed a happy colony, absorbing American ideas and in return educating our citizens. They were truly valuable, worthy citizens and their children's children dwell among us to-day. Franzoni took or built a comfortable house on Capitol Hill, 120 B Street S. E.; there he lived, his children were born, and there, early in 1851, he died. This dwelling within or remembrance has been removed to make way for our magnificent palace of books.

Franzoni was an accomplished gentleman, accustomed to cultivated society. He was congenial, and soon became intimate with Mr. Jefferson, dining at the executive mansion every Sunday during the administration of the sage of Monticello. One of his granddaughters has handsome pieces of silver presented to him by President Jefferson.

These artists worked earnestly in the important task they had undertaken, modelling, chiselling, carving, painting, until transformation and beauty glowed beneath their magical touch. We assume they wrought with enthusiasm. It is an attribute of their warm blood and an element in the power to create. They were surely not of this age, for they wrote no canons of art from their special point of view; left no written record of their achievements. I wish they had, for then their lines would not have been so difficult to study. In looking over the files of the papers of the times, especially the *National Intelligencer*, it is surprising that



such art creations as were in the old capitol should not receive even a passing mention. Alas, the Washington letter writer had not appeared on the theater of journalism, consequently there is dearth of light on that phase of our history. Webster, Clay, Preston and several others gave assurance of their appreciation. John Quincy Adams addressed the Muse thus:

“Come down thou marble figure upon the floor;  
And write the name of each candidate for fame.”

Though these artists left no art homilies in print, the influence they exercised in moulding taste is apparent from the fact that for half a century we made no mistake in our public buildings, for example, the faultless Patent Office and the stately Treasury.

What became of this eight years of artistic labor and of this large expenditure, for the Government, though judicious, had liberal ideas in regard to the decoration of our legislative halls. Ah, the sequel is a sad, sad story. Of all this beauty, all this labor, all this outlay, not even a catalogue escaped the fiendish vandalism of Admiral Cockburn on August 24, 1814. Think of the anguish of those men as they stood silent witnesses of that sacrificial pyre. Think of them as they wandered through the ruin and the ashes day after day.

Some of these artists were so disheartened that they at once returned home. Franzoni never rallied from the shock, and in a few months, early in 1815, he died. The figure of liberty above the speaker's desk in the old hall is all that remains of his work.

An old print of the Hall of Legislation in Mr. Glenn Brown's admirable and exhaustive book on the Capitol, shows the charred remains of a plaster model of a clock over the north door of the Hall of Representatives. The figure is seated, the head turned to the west; this

was made by Giuseppe Franzoni, and the model must have been his wife. The chariot is too short to be graceful. The wheel with dial on it was in fair condition.

In the summer of 1815 Colonel Samuel Lane, Commissioner of Public Buildings, sent Giovanni Andrie to Italy to secure other artists. In *Congressional Record* of first session of twenty-fourth Congress is found the sum of compensation to each artist, and in addition says Andrie "engaged Franzoni as statuary and sculptor and Iardella, one of the inferior artists." Carlo Franzoni brought quite a household of domestics and assistants. He married and lived on Four-and-a-half Street opposite the Presbyterian Church, in a handsome house. Angel heads were carved above each window. These have been torn out to enlarge the aperture for business purposes. *We are so determined not to preserve good things.* He had elegant ideas of furnishing, as indicated by two carved white mantel pieces in the Supreme Court room, then the Senate chamber, which a naval officer purchased from him, and presented to the Government.

Like his brother, Carlo Franzoni soon succumbed to the rigor of our climate. He died in 1819, leaving a wife and several children poorly provided for. The City Directory of 1822 gives the information that Mrs. Franzoni has opened her house for boarders. These brothers were fine men physically and mentally. Carlo was six feet four inches tall. A portrait, now owned by Dr. Charles Franzoni (grandson), shows a handsome face. It was painted by Bonani and the New York Historical Society has offered a large sum for it. The Franzoni family was of gentle blood—fair with blue eyes. They came from the Carrara district and a love of marble seems to have been natural, as well as the

eye to see an imprisoned form of beauty in each block. The deaths of these two artists were grievous losses to this country. They were interred in St. Patrick's Cemetery but were removed to Oak Hill, where they both rest in the same grave.

Carlo coming so soon after his brother's death, it would seem natural that he would complete his unfinished work. However, this is mere conjecture. From his work in the Vatican it is evident he was the finer artist of the two. There does not seem a doubt that he made the Franzoni clock. It is not a copy of the work by Giuseppi; it is so superior. It may be considered an adaptation. All controversy seems to be settled by the fact of the chariot being inscribed "C. Franzoni, 1819." It was not put in place for several years after his death. One conclusive proof of its authorship is the fact that there was no one else who could do it. The assertion that Francisco Iardella executed this rare work scarcely need be considered. If Iardella was a sculptor, he never claimed to be one, and he is in the first Washington Directory put down as "Carver at the Capitol," and Giovanni Andie as "Carver in Chief at the Capitol." Iardella no doubt put the wonderful clock in place.

Carlo Franzoni was here such a short period that he produced little else save the clock. The beautiful "Justice" in the Supreme Court room (now the Law Library) was from his chisel, at least the design is his and he no doubt executed the noble figure of the woman, but the youth inscribing the Constitution, shows the 'prentice hand and was doubtless completed after his death. He also modelled and executed the corn pillars in the east vestibule and lower entrance to the Capitol. One of the few of his utterances preserved in the family is his saying: "The thought in these columns is Mr. Jefferson's, I am only his interpreter."



From the fact that Latrobe had these columns placed, they bear his name. It will be remembered that Mrs. Tolloppe savagely said of the corn column: "It is the only original thought I met in America."

The Franzoni clock is conceded to be a perfect creation. The figure of the Muse is after the girlish form of Eurydice Franzoni, the daughter of Giuseppi, a woman of rare beauty and charm. She married Mr. Francis Bernard Simms and died in this city in 1871. Her children and grandchildren still reside here.

It is, therefore, with no small degree of satisfaction and local pride that we send forth this seal of the Columbia Historical Society. We send it with all the more complaisance that we know the Muse to be the counterpart of a lovely daughter of the District of Columbia.

## THE THEATRES OF WASHINGTON FROM 1835 TO 1850.

BY ALOYSIUS I. MUDD.

(Read before the Society November 10, 1902.)

In my former paper\* I traced the history of the Washington stage from the opening of the United States Theatre in the Blodgett Hotel in the summer of the year 1800 up to and including the closing of the American Theatre situated on Louisiana Avenue between Four-and-a-half and Sixth Streets, February 8, 1836. I also gave a brief account of the building and opening of the first National Theatre in 1835.

In the present paper I will go back some months and speak more fully of that theatre.

As stated in my former paper the newspapers in the very early days did not print notices of theatrical performances. Later, notices written by occasional correspondents appeared, and as time rolled on these notices became quite frequent. The papers, however, took unusual pains to state that they were not responsible for the sentiments contained therein. These correspondents were not at all backward in criticising both plays and players. The faults of the performers were laid bare and they were advised to learn their parts, to stick to the text, to dress correctly, etc. The attention of some of them was called to their indistinct enunciation, to their talking too loud or too low, to their mouthing, to their ranting, and to various other defects. They praised those whom they deemed worthy of

\* Read before the Society January 7, 1901.

praise, and the actresses—according to these critics—were like brides, handsome and accomplished. Who ever heard of an ugly bride? If a woman is as homely as—as Meg Merriles is represented on the stage—when she becomes a bride the papers always describe her as being handsome and accomplished. So with the actresses, they were all handsome and had figures like Venus. Still later the newspapers printed notices of performances which were prepared in their own offices.

As is well known Washington was an unpaved city and the streets were badly lighted. When it rained the streets were filled with mud puddles. In fact a communication signed by a member of Congress was printed in the *National Intelligencer* in 1835 complaining that the lamps were not lighted and that people could not walk the streets at night without falling into mud holes. It was also stated that about that time it cost \$10 for a hack to take a party to and from the theatre. As a consequence of these uncomfortable conditions the performance often did not take place on nights when the weather was very inclement.

As Washington grew in size and importance the population moved westward and a movement was inaugurated to build a more modern theatre, and nearer the center of the city. This movement resulted in the organization of a stock company of prominent citizens, and plans were drawn for a new theatre to be built on the triangular park in front of the present National Theatre. August 26, 1834, proposals were invited for the erection of the structure. Later, ground was purchased about where that theatre now stands, the plans were changed, and November 26 proposals were again asked for. The building was begun early in 1835 and finished in November of that year. It was of Roman Doric, resting on a basement 13 feet 6 inches in height



with a portico 41 feet 6 inches long by 12 feet 9 inches in breadth, consisting of four brick Roman Doric columns 29 feet 6 inches in height with antæ, entablature, and balustrade. The front was 76 feet 6 inches wide, the building running back 150 feet and 50 feet in height. It was stuccoed in imitation of granite and had five large doors and a like number of windows in front.

The parquette was arranged so that the floor could be removed in order that the building might be used as an amphitheatre. The stage was 68 x 71 feet.

The dome was painted a pale cerulean blue and was divided into four allegorical designs. The first represented the Genius of the Institutions of the country, designated by Power and Wisdom repelling Tyranny and Superstition. The second represented Truth at the altar from which the Spirits of War and Peace had taken the sword and torch. The third represented the Goddess of Wisdom presenting a medallion of Washington to the Goddess of Liberty, who returned a wreath to crown her favorite son—Fame proclaiming Victory and Peace. The last represented Justice protecting and guiding the commerce and manufactures of America. All the ornaments of the interior were of a national character representing, either by allegorical design or historical illustrations, important events in the history of the country. What had in the earlier theatres been known as the pit was done away with and in its place a parquette was substituted and connected with the lower boxes. Then there was the first gallery or first tier, the second tier and the gallery. A part of this gallery was set apart for persons of color.

The theatre was leased to Messrs, Maywood, Rowbotham and Platt of the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia.

November 10, 1835, the managers offered a prize of a silver cup valued at \$50 for the best opening address not to exceed sixty lines.

Mr. H. Penrose Vass, of Baltimore, Md., was the successful competitor. The theatre was opened December 7, 1835.

The opening address was delivered by Mrs. Hughes. This was followed by the sterling and excellent comedy by Macklin, entitled "The Man of the World," in which Mr. Maywood sustained the character of *Sir Pertinax Macsychophant*. It was a part in which Mr. Maywood had gained great credit and on that occasion his fine acting elicited much well-merited applause from a highly appreciative and intelligent audience. The performance closed with the musical farce entitled "Turn Out."

The prices of admission were: First tier of boxes and parquette \$1, second and third tiers 50 cents, gallery 25 cents.

The doors were opened at a quarter-past 6 and the performance commenced at 7 o'clock, but later the hours were changed to 5:45 and 6:30, so that the entertainments might conclude at as near ten o'clock as possible.

Miss Wheatley, a native American actress, made her first appearance, December 8, as *Mrs. Haller*, in "The Stranger." The following night Mr. James Wallack appeared as *Hamlet*. Mr. Wallack and Miss Wheatley played "The Wonder, a Woman Keeps a Secret," "Children in the Wood," "The Hunchback," "The Honeymoon," "Bertram," "The School for Scandal," and other plays. Both received high praise for the excellence of their personations.

Mr. Balls, a celebrated light comedian from the Drury Lane and Covent Gardent Theatres, London,

played an engagement presenting "Laugh When You Can," "Three and the Deuce," "The Dramatist," "Hunter of the Alps," "Raising the Wind," "Gretna Green," "Secrets Worth Knowing," "The Weathercock," and "School for Scandal," and sustained his high reputation as a finished performer. Saturday, December 26, Mr. Burton, the celebrated low comedian, made his first appearance before a Washington audience. The house was well filled and he met with a warm reception by a delighted audience. Mr. Rowbotham, one of the lessees, also made his first bow as an actor to his Washington patrons. During his engagement Mr. Burton appeared in "Uncle John," "The Turnpike Gate," "John Jones," "The Poor Gentleman," "The Mummy," "Second Thoughts," "Forty Winks" and "Married Life."

New Year's night, 1836, the highly celebrated comedian, John Reeve, began a short engagement during which he played "Paul Pry," "Sweethearts and Wives," "The Married Bachelor," "The Mummy" and "The Rivals." He was followed by Herr Cline, the great rope dancer. His specialties were a dance in wooden shoes, delineation of the passions, and ascension on the tight rope from the stage to the extreme height of the theatre. At this time the prices of admission were reduced to seventy-five, fifty and twenty-five cents.

"The Merchant of Venice," "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," "Rob Roy," "The Bride of Lammermoor" and other plays were performed by the regular company, Mr. Maywood sustaining the principal characters.

January 19, Mr. Abbott, a first-rate tragedian and highly popular actor on the English stage, appeared as *Hamlet*. His reading was correct, intonation fine,



and elocution well fitted to the character assumed. The part was well played throughout, and in the closet scene he electrified the audience with his heartrending bursts of pathos. He also played "The Gamester," "The Exile," "The Weathercock," "The King's Fool," "The Stranger," "Pizarro" and "The Day after the Wedding." Mrs. M. A. Duff, who as a tragedienne had no superior in this country, played a farewell engagement. For her farewell benefit she appeared as *Jane Shore*, and *Portia* in "The Merchant of Venice." Mr. Abbott was reëngaged to support Mrs. Duff.

On Saturday evening, February 6, a national drama founded on facts which occurred in the State of Virginia was produced. It was called "Pocahontas; or, the First Settlers of Virginia," and was written by George Washington Parke Custis, of Arlington, Va., the adopted son of George Washington. Before the Civil War Mr. Custis' place was known as Custis' Spring, and was a noted place for holding picnics. Mr. Custis had a dancing pavilion built there and welcomed the picnic parties to his grounds.

The play was handsomely mounted, new and appropriate dresses, scenery, and properties being provided. The Commissioner of the Indian Bureau loaned a number of Indian dresses, and a Major Hook also loaned many Indian articles from his well-known collection, so as to aid the aboriginal effect. The play was well performed and the applause was general and enthusiastic. At the end of the piece the well-known and highly respected author was loudly called for and soon made his appearance. He was greatly affected by the flattering reception he met with, and stepping to the front of the stage expressed his grateful feelings to the audience.

The custom of demanding curtain speeches had grown up at that time and such speeches were made by Sheridan Knowles, Tyrone Power, Wm. E. Burton and others.

This custom has been revived at the present day, and some performers cheerfully respond to the demand. Many things that were presented in years long gone by have been revived in later years and brought out as entirely new.

The play of "Pocahontas" met with great success and was played for several nights.

February 12, Mr. Booth began an engagement of three nights. He appeared as *Richard the Third*, *Iago* in "Othello," *Shylock* in "The Merchant of Venice," and *Sir Giles Overreach* in "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," a character in which he was unequalled in this or any other country.

He was followed by Mr. Oxley, a native tragedian, who played "Virginius," "Rolla," "Damon" and "William Tell." He was an actor of considerable merit, but his acting was somewhat crude and he needed experience. As a critic put it, he was "a good actor in the rough."

Mr. Booth again appeared in "Richard the Third," *Shylock*, *Sir Edward Mortimer* in the "Iron Chest," "King Lear," "Town and Country," and "The Review."

Monday, March 4, a new play entitled "Pontiac; or the Siege of Detroit," was produced with new scenery, dresses, decorations and music, and with a degree of splendor seldom witnessed. It was written by General Alexander Macomb, who then commanded the United States armies. It is stated that the U. S. marines were used to represent the soldiers who fought and killed scores of Indians.

The great Celeste made her first appearance at this theatre, March 9, and owing to the high terms exacted for her services the prices of admission were raised. Her tour through this country and Canada had been most remarkable. In about a year she received \$22,300 in New York, \$13,500 in Boston, \$8,500 in Philadelphia, \$3,500 in Baltimore, \$1,500 in Montreal, \$1,000 in Quebec, \$130 in Albany, total about \$50,000. She then went to New Orleans where she received \$9,000 for six weeks' performance. Her engagement in that city was the most brilliant ever known in America up to that time, and the receipts for twenty-four consecutive nights averaged \$1,120.50 per night. She then played in Mobile before coming to Washington. She opened with the "French Spy; or, The Wild Arab of the Desert," a play which in after years was performed by Maggie Mitchell, Adah Isaacs Menkin, Helen Western, Leo Hudson, Lucille Western, Kate Fisher, Fanny Herring and others. She also danced a grand operatic ballet dance from "The Maid of Cashmere" called La Bayadere. Her reception was most enthusiastic and applause was showered upon her. In the disguise of a French lancer she was gay, dashing, and careless, and as a wild Arab boy, bold and dashing, and highly picturesque in appearance; but, when she appeared in female attire as *Mathilde*, so beautiful was her costume and so brilliant and graceful her general appearance that the audience was surprised and delighted. Her dancing was beautiful in the extreme and the curtain dropped in the midst of the most enthusiastic and rapturous applause.

She also played "The Wizard Skiff; or, The Tongueless Pirate Boy" and "The Wept of Wish-ton-wish," founded on Cooper's novel of "The Borderers." Her benefit drew the largest audience of the season, the



house literally overflowing from top to bottom, and hundreds were turned away being unable to gain admission. Her engagement was twice extended and she produced "The Moorish Page; or, The Knight of the Bleeding Scarf," "The Death Plank; or, A True Tale of the Sea," and "Victoire; or, A Tale of the American Camp." Her engagement was the most brilliant of all that had been played at the theatre.

She was succeeded by Mr. John Reeve and Mr. Balls, who appeared in "Laugh when You Can," "The Philosopher," "Catching an Heiress," "Bold Dragoons," "Tom and Jerry; or, Life in London," "The Rivals," "The Weathercock; or, Love Alone Can Fix Him," "The Young Widow," etc.

April 12, a new drama by George Washington Parke Custis called "Montgomerie; or, The Orphan of a Wreck," was acted and Herr Cline, who had been re-engaged, exhibited some of his remarkable feats.

Wm. E. Burton played a short engagement, appearing in "Speed the Plough," "Hide and Seek," "Tylney Hall," founded on Hood's popular novel of that name, "The Actor of All Work," and "Second Thoughts; or, The Breach of Promise."

Mrs. and Miss Watson, highly celebrated vocalists, appeared for eight nights in April and May in "Guy Mannering," "The Spoiled Child," "The Lord of the Manor," "No Song, No Supper; or, The Lawyer in the Sack," "John of Paris," "Old and Young," "The Pet of the Petticoats; or, Life in a Convent," and "The Marriage of Figaro," which was produced for the first time in this city. The boat duet was sung each night to great applause.

May 4, an entirely new drama called "The Hawks of Hawks' Hollow; or, The Refugees of 1782," founded on Dr. Bird's novel of that name, was produced. It

will be noticed that it was a custom in those days as well as at the present time to dramatize popular novels.

For the last week of the season Mr. Abbott and Mr. Balls were the attractions. "Romeo and Juliet," "Three and the Deuce," "All in the Wrong," "Pizarro," "The Weathercock," "Husbands and Wives," "Macbeth," "Speed the Plough," "The Green-Eyed Monster," and "Joe Miller, a Fellow of Infinite Jest," were the plays presented.

The winter season of 1836-37 opened December 7, with a national anthem (written by Dr. Bird) of "God Bless America" by the whole company. This was followed by "The School for Scandal," Mr. Rowbotham playing *Sir Peter Teazle*, and "The Turnpike Gate" with Mr. Cowell as *Crack, the Cobbler*. The company was well selected and efficient.

During the recess six private boxes were fitted up in elegant style in the second tier, three on each side for the accommodation of families and the price put at \$10. These boxes were not well patronized and the prices were reduced, and later they were done away with. There had been much complaint about the house not being sufficiently warm and this defect was remedied.

"Henry IV.," "The Soldier's Daughter," "The Hut of the Red Mountains; or, Thirty Years of a Gambler's Life," "Napoleon, First Consul and Emperor," "Is He Jealous?" "Scan. Mag.," "Love in Humble Life," "The Rose of Kerry," "The Patrician and Parvenu," "The Polish Exile," "The Rose of Ettrick Vale" and "Where Shall I Dine?" were produced by the stock company.

Miss Clifton, the highly celebrated native actress, appeared Monday, December 26, as *Bianca* in "Fazio; or, the Italian Wife" and remained until January 4, 1837.

Miss Clifton had the advantage of receiving instruction from Charles Kemble, and had been to England where she profited by witnessing the performances of the most talented and experienced performers in that country. Miss Clifton had a fine Madonna head, beautiful eyes, finely proportioned figure, and graceful and dignified movements. She was an actress of rare talents and ranked among the first artists in her profession.

She also played *Julia* in "The Hunchback," *Marianna* in Sheridan Knowles' "The Wife; or, A Tale of Mantua," *Juliet*, *Rachel* in "The Rent Day," and *Clari*, in "Clari, Maid of Milan." At her benefit, Monday, January 2, 1837, she played *Julia Dalton* in "One Hour; or, The Carnival Ball," which was presented that night for the first time in this country and in which she introduced the song of "The Banks of the Blue Moselle." This beautiful song was much admired and was very popular for many years.

Mr. Oxley then appeared for two nights in "Brutus" and "Hamlet."

On January 8, a new patriotic drama written by George Washington Parke Custis entitled "The Eighth of January; or, Hurrah for the Boys of the West," was presented together with "Speed the Plough; or, The Farmer's Glory."

Mdlle. Celeste made her appearance Wednesday, January 11, in "The French Spy" and was welcomed with shouts of applause from a very full house. She also appeared in "The Wept of Wish-ton-wish," "The Death Plank," "The Wizard Skiff," "The Moorish Page," "The Devil's Daughter" and "Victoire; or, A Tale of the Union Camp" and danced several of her famous dances. Her success was so great that her engagement was extended.



Mr. Tyrone Power, the celebrated Irish comedian, played an engagement of five nights opening Monday, January 30, with *Paudeen O'Rafferty* in "Born to Good Luck; or, The Irishman's Fortune;" and Dr. O'Toole in "The Irish Tutor." The following night he appeared as *Dennis Brulgruddery* in "John Bull; or, A Freeman's Fireside," in which he introduced the celebrated Irish drinking song of "The Cruiskeen Lawn." Mr. Power also played "Paddy Carey; or, The Boy of Clagheen," *Macshane* in "The Nervous Man and the Man of Nerve," *Pat Rooney* in "The Omnibus," *Sir Patrick O'Plenipo* in "The Irish Ambassador," *Murtock Delaney* in "The Irishman in London," "Etiquette Run Mad" and "Teddy the Tiler."

This inimitable actor met with the greatest success, the house being filled each evening to overflowing with the élite of the metropolis. More money was received on the third night of his appearance than had been received on any night since the opening of the theatre.

The manager, ever mindful of the wishes of his patrons, and on account of numerous parties occurring during the week of the engagement of Mr. Power, and with the intention of preventing an attendance at the theatre interfering with other engagements, arranged for the performances on Mr. Power's nights to commence at a quarter before 7 o'clock, and that portion of the amusements in which Mr. Power took part was concluded by 9 o'clock.

The manager also set apart one night to be known as juvenile night for the attendance of the younger branches of families. The performances selected were suitable to the occasion and the admission was half the regular price to the first and second tiers for all persons under fourteen years of age.

The celebrated and extraordinary Ravel Family played a very successful engagement beginning February 13 and ending on the 22d.

Monday, February 20, "The Jewess; or, The Council of Constance" founded on Mons. Scribe's spectacle of "La Juive" and arranged for the English stage by W. Moncrieff was presented with great splendor.

Mr. Burton played a number of his favorite characters and several of the members of the company, the stockholders and the orchestra took benefits, the season closing March 10.

Wednesday, September 13, Mr. Ward opened the National Theatre for one month, Miss Clifton appearing on the opening night as *Belvidera* in "Venice preserved." Her engagement continued five nights during which time she appeared in "Fazio; or, The Italian Wife," "The Hunchback" and as *Bianca* in "Bianca Visconte; or, The Heart Overtaxed," written expressly for her by N. P. Willis. She made a great hit, playing the very difficult and poetical character with unrivalled skill and judgment.

Yankee Hill followed Miss Clifton and those who liked fun—who wished to laugh till their sides ached and the tears rolled down their cheeks—who wished to be in good humor with all the world—and who desired to see the Yankee, the genuine "darn yer eyes," "slick as grease" cute Yankee with all his peculiarities, went to see him and heartily enjoyed his representations of that peddling, trading, swapping genus. He played "The Knight of the Golden Fleece; or, the Yankee in Spain," "Yankee Pedlar," "Jonathan Doublekins," "No; or, The Glorious Minority," "The Green Mountain; or, Love and Learning," "The Forest Rose" and "Kasper Hauser; or, Major Wheeler Abroad."

On September 26, the highly celebrated Miss Nelson made her first appearance in Washington as *Eolia* in "The Mountain Sylph; or, The Wizard of the Glen." She also appeared as *Porseus* in "The Deep, Deep Sea; or, The American Sea Serpent."

On Saturday, September 30, she took her benefit and made her last appearance in Washington. A novel and exciting scene was enacted. On the left of the stage sat a delegation of Indian chiefs, representing the Sioux, Ioways, Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri. With a single exception, not one of this band had ever before visited the settlements of his white brethren. Before them in the parquette they beheld a crowd of civilized men, mingled with whom were the kindred of some of them, the Sioux from the Falls of St. Anthony, part of these dressed in military coats, with epaulettes and hats with silver bands, and others in new blankets and leggings they had that day received as a present from their Great Father. In the boxes was an array of the beauty of Washington looking with strange intent on these sons of the forest. But the attraction for the party on the left of the stage was the agile, graceful and fairy figure of the *Mountain Sylph*. As she descended the mountain and her feet touched lightly the stage their cries mingled with the plaudits of their white brethren. As she moved from place to place, appearing and vanishing with a rapidity that reminded them of the fleetness of the deer in their native hunting grounds, their interest became more intense. Suddenly, a young chief of the Yanctons, Pa-la-ne-pa-pi (The man Struck by a Reckara), rose and threw at her feet the splendid war cap, composed of feathers of the war eagle, which he had often worn in bloody conflict with the enemies of his people. Most gracefully did the Sylph receive the offering, and appended it to her own rich costume.



A few moments passed, and an aged Sac Chief, Po-ku-na (The Plume), who during a long life had been distinguished for his friendship for the Americans, especially in the War of 1812, moved by a sudden impulse made to her an oblation of his own war cap. To-ka-ca (The man who inflicted the first wound), a celebrated brave of the Yanctons, almost immediately afterwards presented her with a splendid robe of the skins of the white wolf, which he had worn only at the more imposing ceremonies of his tribe. A buffalo robe richly ornamented was next the gift of Ha-su-za (The Forked Horn), the second chief of the Yanctons, and Mon-ka-ush-ka (The Trembling Earth), a young brave of rank, of the same tribe bestowed another robe of similar fabric and workmanship. At the presentation of his gift each of these chiefs and warriors addressed to the Sylph some word of compliment, the last declaring that he made the offering "to the beauty of Washington." With graceful ease she expressed her regret that she could not speak to them in their native language, and thanked them for their splendid donations. And she requested the interpreter to tell them that she should ever regard them as friends and brethren. Then advancing to the box she presented to each a beautiful ostrich plume, which they immediately placed upon their head-dresses. At the close, as she was ascending the mountain, she spread over her brow the splendid cap of eagle feathers, producing a most magical effect and creating a scene long to be remembered.

The next and final artist of the season was Miss Turpin who appeared in the operas of "La Somnambula," "Cinderella," "Rob Roy MacGregor" and "No," the season closing October 7.

The theatre was again opened January 1, 1838, for a season of six weeks with Mr. Vandenhoff as *Cato* in

the play of that name, followed by "Macbeth," "Coriolanus," "Virginius," "Hamlet" and the "Hunter of the Alps." Mr. Vandenhoff played to large, brilliant, fashionable and enlightened audiences. Mr. Vandenhoff's performance of "Cato" was an intellectual representation, giving full effect to all the noble and sublime sentiments of its classical author, and he was pronounced by most enlightened critics to be the only tragedian who had successfully represented Addison's great character since the days of John Philip Kemble.

Mr. Wills made his appearance on Wednesday, January 3, as *Nipperkin* in the afterpiece of "Spriggs of Laurel; or, The Rival Soldier." He made his bow to the audience amidst thunders of applause.

Monday, January 8, Mr. Rice, the celebrated representative of Jim Crow, or negro characters appeared as *Ginger Blue* in "The Virginia Mummy" and as *Sambo* in "The Eighth of January; or, Hurrah for the Boys of the West." During his engagement he also played "Jim Crow in London," "Black and White; or, the Mysterious Statues," "Peacock and the Crow," "Bone Squash Diablo" and "Oh Hush; or, The Virginia Cupids."

Tuesday, January 16, Mr. Booth began an engagement of five nights, during which he played "Richard III.," "The Iron Chest," "A new Way to Pay Old Debts" and "King Lear."

Another rich treat in the comic vein was then provided by the engagement of the talented and favorite comedian, Mr. W. E. Burton, noted alike for his histrionic skill and literary attainments. He performed "The Fine Old English Gentleman," "The Blue Devils," "John Jones, the Most Unfortunate Man in the World," *Billy Lackaday* in "Sweethearts and

Wives," "A Peculiar Position," "Good Husbands Make Good Wives," "Pleasant Neighbors," "The May Queen," "The Love Chase" and *Toby Tramp* in "The Virginia Mummy" with the song of "The Adventures of a Cork Leg." This song was quite amusing and always brought forth great applause.

Not desiring to interfere with the Citizens' Benevolent Ball which took place on Tuesday, January 30, Mr. Ward closed the theatre that night. In those days balls and parties were quite popular, and the performances at the theatre were often arranged so that the patrons of the drama could leave in time to attend the balls which were attended by the élite of the city.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Jones were the next performers, and appeared in "The Merchant of Venice," "Fazio; or, The Italian Wife," "William Tell," Knowles' play of "The Wife," "Hamlet," "The Hunchback" and "The Gamester." The season closed Tuesday, February 6, with a benefit to Mr. Ward, the manager, when the veteran tragedian Booth performed the part of *Lucius Junius Brutus* in the tragedy of "Brutus" in a masterly manner to a large and fashionable audience, including President Martin Van Buren, Vice-President Richard M. Johnson, Secretary of State John Forsyth and a large number of members of Congress. At the end of the play Mr. Booth was called for by the audience, who expected from him a speech, agreeably to a practice which had grown up. The great tragedian thought this speechifying instant a custom

"More honored in the breach than in the observance,"

and walking across the stage, bowed respectfully twice to the audience and retired amidst universal applause.



Monday, March 5, 1838, the theatre was reopened for the purpose of presenting to the citizens of Washington Mr. Edwin Forrest, who made his first appearance since his return from Europe, where he had met with great success. He appeared in the arduous character of *Othello* and his masterly delineation of the jealous and frantic Moor procured for him the warmest and most unqualified praise of all who saw him. The house was well filled with a fashionable and discriminating audience. He also played "Virginius," "Richard the Third," "King Lear," "Damon," "The Gladiator" and "Metamora." He was poorly supported.

Mr. Finn, the celebrated comedian and punster, followed Mr. Forrest, appearing in "Monsieur Jacques," "Removing the Deposits," "The May Queen; or, The Unjust Steward," "The Legion of Honor; or, The Veteran of 102," "Master's Rival" and "The Hypocrite." Miss V. Monier, Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Wills took benefits, the season closing with Mr. Ward's benefit on Saturday, March 31, on which occasion "Mazeppa; or, The Wild Horse of Tartary" was presented, the Bacon Equestrian company being engaged to add novelty to the performance.

The theatre was again opened April 16, for three nights for the purpose of introducing the "Wonders of the Age," Mr. Porter, the Kentucky giant seven feet nine inches and Major Stevens forty inches high, Miss Gannon, the juvenile prodigy and others in several plays.

The old American Theatre had several times been advertised for rent or lease. Mr. Ward rented it and opened it Wednesday, April 25, with Mr. Porter, Major Stevens and company in order to afford the inhabitants of that portion of the city near Sixth Street

and Louisiana Avenue an opportunity to witness their performances.

Mr. Hackett followed at the American and appeared as *Colonel Nimrod Wildfire* in "The Kentuckian," *Mons. Marbleau* in "Monsieur Tonsin," *Soloman Swap* in "Jonathan in England," "Mons. Mallet," "Rip Van Winkle" and "Job Fox."

In order to accommodote numerous applicants Mr. Hackett's farewell benefit prior to his departure for Europe was given at the National Theatre and Mr. Hackett appeared in his most admirable impersonation of *Sir John Falstaff* and as *Colonel Nimrod Wildfire*, the performance closing with "Mazeppa." On account of the rapturous manner in which the performances were received and the many requests for a repetition of the performance of *Falstaff* Mr. Hackett announced to the audience that he would, after playing an indispensable engagement in Philadelphia, Thursday night, return to Washington and perform *Falstaff* the following night. It was a most remarkable feat in those days that a performer should play in Washington one night, in Philadelphia the next, and in Washington again the third night. Herr Cline, a performer on the elastic cord, was engaged for a few nights, and the season closed May 7. Herr Cline was transferred to the American Theatre, and in conjunction with the stock company performed for a few nights when that theatre also closed.

Mr. Ward again opened the National Theatre, having engaged the celebrated and distinguished vocalist Madame Caradari Allan, who appeared Monday, May 14, in her favorite and far-famed character of *Amina* in "La Sonnambula" and on Tuesday in the character of *Rosina* in "The Barber of Seville." She was

assisted by the celebrated and talented vocalists Mr. Walton, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Brough and Miss Morgan.

The next performer was Mr. Edwin Forrest, who played four nights, opening Wednesday, June 13, as *Claude Melnotte* in Bulwer's new and excellent play of "The Lady of Lyons," which was presented for the first time in Washington. Miss Virginia Monier was *Pauline*, and Mr. Pickering *Colonel Dumas*. Mr. Forrest also appeared as *Damon* in "Damon and Pythias."

The great actress Miss Ellen Tree, supported by Mr. Frederick of the London and Park Theatres, made her début in Washington, June 18, 1838, as *Rosalind* in Shakespeare's beautiful play of "As You Like It," and as *Clarisse* in "The Barrack Room," played by her two hundred nights in London, Tuesday night as *Ion* in the play of that name, Wednesday as *Mariana* in "The Wife; or, A Tale of Mantua," and *Christine* in "The Youthful Queen; or, Christine of Sweden," Thursday *Constance* in "The Love Chase" and *Kate O'Brien* in "Perfection; or, The Maid of Munster," with the song of "By the Margin of Fair Zurich's Waters," and on Friday for the benefit of Mr. Frederick as *Ion* and *Katherine* in "Katherine and Petruchio." She delayed her departure and appeared on Saturday night as *Rosalind* and *Christine* for the benefit of Mr. Ward, the manager.

Miss Tree made a fine impression in Washington by her unequaled and unique performance of *Rosalind* in "As You Like It." Her performance of this character was an exceedingly chaste piece of acting. She evinced soul, tact, manner and action which stamped her as an actress of the highest grade. Nothing could excel her recitation of the original epilogue to this celebrated play. The finest passages of Shakespeare were delivered with full effect and nothing was wanting on the part of Miss



Tree to give to each sentiment its peculiar tone and emphasis.

In the interesting and engaging character of *Christine*, in the "Youthful Queen," Miss Tree appeared to great advantage. It was a perfect and exquisite piece of acting and in that character she appeared "every inch a queen."

During her stay in Washington she was honored with some of the most enlightened and brilliant audiences, notwithstanding the intense summer heat.

The theatre closed for the season with the benefit of Mr. Ward on Saturday, June 23, and opened again Tuesday, October 2, for the race nights only, with the stock company and the Wild Bedouin Arabs in their unrivalled feats of strength and agility.

The old American Theatre was opened by Robert J. Brittingham for one night, October 27. The plays were "William Tell," in which Mr. Brittingham appeared as *Gessler* and Miss Brittingham as *Albert*, and "The Benevolent Tar."

The National Theatre was opened by Mr. Ward for the winter season Monday, December 3, 1838, and introduced to the Washington public the most astonishing juvenile actress of the day, Miss Davenport, from the theatres Royal Drury Lane and Covent Garden. Miss Davenport was but ten years of age, and played *Richard the Third*, *Shylock*, *Young Norval*, *Sir Peter Teazle* and numerous other difficult characters. In all her representations she proved her astonishing powers of personating character, and in some of her efforts left an impression upon the mind and feelings which corresponded with the enthusiastic reports which had preceded her from Boston, New York and Philadelphia where she had been rapturously received. A theatrical critic said he considered her the most extraordinary

child that had ever been presented to the notice of the theatrical world since the time of the celebrated British Roscius, Master Betty. It was regretted, however, that so delicate and tender a frame should be so severely tasked with characters which require a man's intellectual and physical strength to render their performance agreeable to a humane and generous audience.

The performances for several nights thereafter were given by the stock company, the Wild Arabs and a ballet troupe. John Sefton appeared for a few nights as *Jemmy Twitcher*, and Monday, December 27, Miss Shirreff, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Seguin, Mr. Horncastle, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Duggan appeared in grand opera, the operas given being "*La Somnambula*," "*Amalie*; or, *The Love Test*" and "*Fra Diavolo*," the season closing December 29, 1838.

The theatre again opened January 14, 1839, with Mr. C. B. Parsons in "*Caius Silius*" and Mr. Proctor in "*Black Eyed Susan*." They also appeared in "*Brutus*," "*Macbeth*," "*Oronaska, the Mohawk Chief*," "*Paul Jones; or, The Pilot of the German Ocean*" and "*Nick of the Woods; or, Kentucky in 1783*." In the latter piece Mr. Parsons played the character of *Roaring Ralph Stackpole, a Ring-tailed squaller and Rip staver from Salt River*. For Mr. Proctor's benefit "*Rienzi*" was presented and Mrs. Proctor, late Mrs. Willis and formerly Miss Warren, appeared as *Claudia*, *Rienzi's* daughter.

Monday, January 21, a new tragedy entitled "*Velasco*" was acted for the first time in Washington. Mr. James E. Murdock, who played the part of *Velasco*, made his first appearance in Washington on that occasion and Mrs. Sharpe, who played *Isadora*, did likewise. Mr. Murdock also played *Mr. Flightly* in "*Married Rake*." *Velasco* was written by Mr. Epes Sar-

gent and was very favorably received and elicited general applause. By the masterly acting of Mrs. Sharpe and Mr. Murdock the parts of *Isadora* and *Velasco* were rendered most striking and effective. "The Ransom; or, a Tale of Montesquin," "Perfection; or, The Lady of Munster," "The Weathercock; or, Love Alone can Fix Him," "My Aunt" and "The Lady of Lyons" were also performed. Mr. Hackett being in Washington on a visit, appeared as *Sir John Falstaff* for the benefit of Mrs. Sharpe, and Mr. Murdock as *Prince Henry*. Mrs. Sharpe played *Lady Elizabeth Freeclove* in "A Day After the Wedding," in which she introduced the much-admired song of "The Blue Moselle," and as *Pauline* in "The Ransom." The weather was extremely cold, but there was a genteel, enlightened and numerous audience present. Mr. Hackett's *Falstaff* was as good as usual, and Mr. Murdock's representation of the Prince of Wales was a fine piece of acting, in excellent keeping with his other performances on the previous nights of his engagement.

January 28, Mdle. Celeste, the celebrated actress from the Grand Opera House Paris, and Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Haymarket and Adelphi, London, appeared as *Madeline* in "St. Mary's Eve," acted by her one hundred successive nights in the principal theatres of the British Metropolis and in Paris, Edinburgh, Dublin and New York with unbounded success. She also played "The French Spy," "The Child of the Wreck," "The Wept of Wish-ton-wish," "The Wizard Skiff," "The Star of the Forest; or, A Story of Old Virginia."

Mdle. Celeste, by her unrivalled performances, drew admiring crowds with almost magnetic attraction and fairly eclipsed all other kinds of public entertainments.



Mr. Ward took his farewell benefit February 4, and two days later retired from the management of the theatre which had not been a profitable investment.

The theatre was then fitted up for equestrian performances and was opened February 14, with "Timour, the Tartar," which was followed by "Blue Beard," "El Huyder, Chief of the Ghant Mountain; or, The War Wolf of Hindostan," "Marcel, the Reprobate" and "The Forty Thieves." The equestrian performances closed March 2.

The American was again opened for two nights, Miss Gannon playing "The Four Mowbrays" and "The Actress of All Work."

The National Theatre was opened during race week by a juvenile opera and ballet troupe under the direction of Mr. Amherst and Mr. J. Clemons.

Messrs. Ward and Walton then leased the theatre, and opened December 9, with an opera company composed of Mrs. Martyn, formerly Miss Inverarity, from the Theatre Royal Covent Garden, London, Miss Poole from the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Opera House, Mr. Martyn from the Theatre Royal and Covent Garden and Mr. Guibelli from the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Queen's Theatre with a fine chorus and an orchestra composed of the principal members of the orchestra of the National Theatre, New York.

The operas given were "The Maid of Palaiseau," "La Somnambula," "Fra Diavolo," "The Waterman," "Cinderella" and "Fidelio."

For various causes the performances were not well attended. The great attraction had been to the galleries of the House of Representatives, where exciting discussion had been carried on. Besides this the theatre was so extremely cold that many persons were deterred from repeating their visits, notwithstanding

their strong desire to enjoy the rich treat which had been nightly presented. Monday, December 23, Miss and Mr. Vandenhoff appeared in "The Hunchback." "The Stranger" was announced for the following night, but owing to a heavy snow-storm the cars from Baltimore did not arrive that day, and consequently a part of the company was detained. The performances advertised for Tuesday were postponed to Thursday evening. "Richelieu" was the next play given.

On January 1, 1840, Miss Vandenhoff's benefit and the last appearance of herself and father took place, on which occasion Sheridan Knowles' popular play of "The Wife, a Tale of Mantua" and "Catherine and Petruchio; or, The Taming of the Shrew" were performed.

Mr. Vandenhoff's *Richelieu* was a most finished representation of the cardinal statesman. Miss Vandenhoff possessed a fine figure, a beautiful face, talent and genius. Her presentation of *Julie* had never been excelled, even by Fanny Kemble, the originator of that character. Her performance of *Catherine* was admirable, showing a capability in the comic line equally as strong as in the line of tragedy.

Saturday, January 4, Miss Virginia Monier, a native actress, made her appearance in the favorite character of *Portia* in "The Merchant of Venice."

The distinguished tragedian, Mr. Charles Kean, appeared Monday, January 6, in "Hamlet," Miss Monier playing *Ophelia*. He also appeared as *Shylock*, *Richard the Third* and *Sir Edward Mortimer* in "The Iron Chest," supported by Miss Monier. The weather was intensely cold and the stoves in the theatre did not keep the house warm, therefore the audiences were slim.

The fascinating, accomplished, and highly gifted Mrs. Fitzwilliam from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane

and Covent Garden, London, was engaged for five nights, and made her début before a metropolitan audience on Monday, January 13, as *Miss Peggy* in "The Country Girl" and as the *Widow Wiggins* in an admired entertainment of that name written expressly for her by J. Buckstone. The audience was highly gratified with her performance in both characters, and the enthusiasm and rapturous delight which prevailed throughout the whole evening were unanimous. More unequivocal demonstrations of applause and such repeated and universal plaudits had never before been witnessed. Her representation of *Peggy* was an extraordinary performance.

Tuesday night she played "The Irish Widow," in which she sang "Och Gramachree, Kilkenny Dear" and a medley of melodies as sung by her in Buckstone's celebrated farce of "The Irish Lion." Also "Widow Wiggins," in which she sustained six characters. Other plays in which she appeared were "Mischief Making," "Foreign Airs and Native Graces," "No, No; or, The Glorious Minority," "The Irish Widow," "The Wedding Day" and "The Irish Lion." For her benefit she played *Miss Peggy* in "The Country Girl" with an admired ballad called "Pit Pat goes my Heart," and by particular desire introduced the beautiful ballad of "Robin Adair," accompanying herself on the harp.

By her transcendent abilities as a comic actress, her unique versatility, and her happy presentation of every character allotted to her Mrs. Fitzwilliam afforded the highest gratification to every person who had the pleasure of seeing her on the Washington boards. Everybody was delighted with Mrs. Fitzwilliam's performance of *Miss Peggy*, the *Widow Wiggins*, the *Widow Brady* and *Emily*. She was one of the most brilliant stars in the theatrical galaxy.



The American comedian, W. R. Blake, while passing through the city, was prevailed upon to perform a few nights and appeared January 20, as *George Gossamer* in "Laugh when You Can." Mr. O'Connell, the tattooed man, also appeared. Mr. O'Connell was shipwrecked in the North Pacific Ocean, remaining eleven years among the barbarous savages, where he underwent the painful operation of being tattooed, and was bound down for nine successive days in the most painful position. Mr. Blake also played "The Last Man; or, The Miser of Elktham Green," "Simpson and Co.," "The Irish Lion," "The Honey Moon," "School for Scandal," and "The Seven Clerks; or, The Three Thieves and The Denouncer."

Mdlle. Celeste played an engagement of six nights to crowded houses, beginning Monday, January 24.

February 5, Mr. W. E. Burton began a short engagement. The performance of *Billy Lackaday*, *Paul Pry*, *Jem Baggs* and *Tobias Shortcut* by this inimitable comedian elicited the warmest applause and afforded the most unequivocal demonstrations of delight in every part of the house. For his benefit and last appearance on Saturday, February 8, he appeared as *Bumble, the Beadle* in "Oliver Twist," which was performed for the first time on that occasion.

Monday, February 10, Mr. Booth presented "Richard the Third," and then played "Othello," "King Lear" and "The Mayor of Garrett."

The Rainer family of Tyrolese minstrels, consisting of Miss Margaret Rainer, Miss Elena Rainer, Mr. Simon Rainer and Mr. Lewis Rainer, appeared in connection with the stock company in a new play entitled "The Conscript; or, The Maiden's Vow," with Miss V. Monier in the leading rôle of *Theresa*. The following night Knowles' new play of "Love" was presented for the first time.

Wednesday, February 19, Mr. J. Wallack, Jr., one of the most promising actors of the day, and a member of the stock company, took his benefit playing *Bertram* in the play of that name and *William* in "Black-Eyed Susan." The next night the celebrated and popular actress, Mrs. Maeder, formerly Miss Clara Fisher, began an engagement of three nights, opening in "The Ladder of Love" and "The Englishman in India," in which she sustained the character of *Sally Scraggs* with the songs of "Hurrah for the Emerald Isle" and "Rory O'More." Other plays performed by her were "Gretna Green," "A Dream of the Future," "The Two Queens" and "The Welsh Girl."

Monday, February 24, Mr. Walton, one of the managers, took his first benefit, on which occasion Mr. Vandenhoff appeared as *Richelieu*, having made a long journey for that purpose. The play of "Nicholas Nickleby" was presented the same night for the first time.

After giving four half-price nights, when the plays were performed by the stock company, the season closed with a six nights' engagement of Mdlle. Celeste, who as usual met with tremendous success. Among the plays given was "The Maid of Cashmere," in which Celeste appeared as *Zelica*. The play was put on the stage in grand style, the scenery, painted by the celebrated artist Bengough, being superior to anything that had ever before been seen in Washington. Saturday, March 7, the last night of her engagement, she appeared in a new piece entitled "The Frontier Maid," written for her by Major Noah, editor of the *New York Star*.

The American Theatre was opened in March for a few nights, then it was leased by Messrs. Jackson and Hardy of the American Theatre, Front Street, Balti-

more, who opened it March 31, Mr. Jackson appearing as *Sir Edward Mortimer* in "The Iron Chest." The season lasted two weeks, closing April 24, with "The Soldier's Daughter," "The Widow Wiggins," and "A Day After the Wedding," in which Mrs. Fitzwilliam sustained the principal characters.

The National Theatre opened on May 25, with Mr. Ranger, who appeared for nine nights. His admirable delineations of French and other characters made a most favorable impression, and his representation of *Clermont*, a French artist, in the beautiful drama of "The Artist's Wife," afforded a very rich treat to the friends of histrionic excellence.

Mr. Henry Wallack, Miss Turpin and Mr. Whitlock appeared Monday, June 15, in the musical drama of "Charles XII." Master Diamond danced a negro hornpipe and old Wirginny breakdown, in which he made the greatest display of heel and toe genius ever witnessed in this city. Miss Turpin was an accomplished vocalist, and her song "Away to the Mountain's Brow" met with a warm reception. They performed several plays and Master Diamond appeared in a number of negro characters. The season closed Saturday, June 27.

Mr. Walton announced an engagement with the great Fanny Elssler to begin July 9, but, owing to a slight accident during her performances in Philadelphia, her appearance was postponed to Saturday, July 11. In addition to Mdle. Elssler, Mons. Sylvain, from the Royal Academy of Music, Paris, was also engaged, and to give effect to the performance the corps de ballet of the Park Theatre, New York, and the Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, were engaged with a full and complete orchestra.

Fanny Elssler made her *début* before one of the most



crowded and brilliant audiences ever witnessed within the walls of the National Theatre. Long before the rising of the curtain the lower boxes, the orchestra seats (introduced on this special occasion) and the parquette were occupied; and before the farce was ended and the charming artiste made her appearance as *Lauretta* in "*La Tarantula*," the lower part of the theatre was literally jammed, so that many gentlemen were compelled to stand in the aisles of the parquette and the steps leading to it.

Miss Elssler's lovely person, her graceful elasticity, sylph-like form, and matchless skill as a danseuse, created a most enthusiastic feeling on the part of the audience, which was manifested not only by the usual demonstrations of applause, but by the expressive looks of admiration, delight and surprise which many, especially among the fair portion of the audience, manifested during the entire performance.

Her popular dance, *La Cracovienne*, was received with the most unbounded applause. Before the house was dismissed, Mdlle. Elssler, being loudly and enthusiastically called for, was conducted to the front of the stage, and made her grateful acknowledgments to the audience, stating with charming simplicity that "the kind and flattering reception which she had experienced that night made her perfectly happy." She then retired amidst the most deafening applause. At the close of the play on the last night of her engagement she was called out by the unanimous call of the house, and in returning thanks to the audience, which she did with surpassing grace and artlessness, remarked: "My stay among you has been very short, but I shall carry away with me recollections that will never be effaced." A shower of bouquets that were reserved as a final compliment to the matchless danseuse was thrown upon

the stage, and the curtain fell amidst cordial and rapturous applause.

The coming of Fanny Elssler created an immense furore. People raved over her beautiful face and form. The *National Intelligencer* was deluged with communications and poems in praise of her, and it has been frequently stated—although I have been unable to find written or printed confirmation of the statement—that ladies tore off their jewelry and threw it on the stage as an offering to her matchless beauty, grace and dancing.

The next time the theatre opened was Tuesday, December 8, 1840, under the management of Miss Virginia Monier. On this occasion Mr. Edwin Forrest appeared as *Claude Melnotte* in "The Lady of Lyons," the fair manageress playing *Pauline*. Mr. Forrest also played "Virginius," "Damon," "Richelieu," "Metamora," "The Gladiator" and "Richard, the Third."

The very popular and accomplished actress, Miss Clifton, was the next performer. Her engagement was for six nights and she performed "The Lady of Lyons," "Fazio," "The Wife," "The Stranger," "The Love Chase" and "Jane Shore."

Mr. Buckstone made his first appearance December 28, in the comedy of "Married Life" and the farce of "Kiss in the Dark." He played three nights.

During the year 1841 Mrs. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Hackett, Mr. T. D. Rice, Mr. Sweeny, an Ethiopian singer and dancer, Mr. Booth, Mr. Forrest and Mr. J. W. Wallack appeared in various plays. Mr. Fitzgerald Tasistro appeared June 28, as *Hamlet*, followed by *Shylock* and *Othello*. The season was an unprofitable one, and on August 26, a farewell complimentary benefit was given Miss Virginia Monier, the manageress, previous to her

departure for Europe on which occasion "Wives as they Were and Maids as they Are" and "Cramond Brig" were presented. The committee which had charge of the benefit included W. W. Seaton, Gen. J. P. Van Ness, Benjamin Ogle Tayloe and many other prominent citizens.

The Old American Theatre on Louisiana Avenue was converted into two spacious assembly rooms, which were opened on the 4th of March, 1841, with the inauguration ball of William Henry Harrison.

The season of 1842 at the National Theatre began January 27, with Mr. A. Addams in "Damon and Pythias," followed by "Virginius" and "Othello." Then came "Yankee Hill." Mr. Booth, Signor Hervio Nano, Mrs. A. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Butler, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. Hield, Mr. Hackett and Mr. Tuthill were the other principal performers during the year. Tom Placide was a member of the stock company.

Mrs. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Buckstone appeared together on Thursday, July 28, in a drama written by Buckstone expressly for himself and Mrs. Fitzwilliam entitled "The Snapping Turtles." On account of the great expense attendant upon this engagement the prices were advanced to fifty cents and one dollar.

The year 1843 opened with a benefit to Miss Reynolds. January 4, Mr. Hackett appeared as *Richard, the Third*. He published a card in which he criticised the interpretation of the character of *Richard* as presented by other actors and stated how he thought *Richard* should be represented. The audience was not of the same opinion as Mr. Hackett. He did not repeat "Richard." Mr. Booth and Mr. Burton were among the other performers early in the year.



On the last night of the season, January 28, Mr. Burton appeared as *Dr. Pangloss* in the sterling comedy by George Colman, the younger, entitled "The Heir at Law." Miss Reynolds appeared in the beautiful character of *Cicely Homespun*.

Saturday, February 12, the National Theatre was opened under the management of Messrs. Hield, Collins, Tuthill and Donaldson with Miss Hildreth, who afterwards married Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, as *Julia* in "The Hunchback." She played six nights. The Hield management ended disastrously. Mr. L. M. Emery next opened the theatre with Peter Richings as director. Vandenhoff was the star. He was followed by an Italian opera company.

December 25, the celebrated violinist, Ole Bull, assisted by Mrs. Bailey, made his first appearance. He completely electrified his audience and produced enthusiastic and long-continued applause.

During a portion of the year 1844, the theatre was used as a circus. In April, the stockholders adopted a resolution stating that on account of the unfavorable financial condition of the corporation a crisis had arrived in the affairs of the establishment and that the theatre, with scenery, machinery, apparatus and debts should be sold under a deed of trust. The theatre was sold, a provision being inserted in the deed of sale that it should be used for theatrical purposes for a certain time.

Mr. W. E. Burton, the comedian, was the next lessee. He opened the theatre on Monday, January 13, 1845, with a good company and Mr. Anderson, a distinguished tragedian, made his first appearance. He appeared as *Claude Melnotte* in "The Lady of Lyons."

Mr. Ward fitted up the old American Theatre which had been converted into the Washington Assembly

Rooms, and opened it under the name of Ward's New Olympic Saloon, January 13, with a company composed of Mrs. Timm, Miss McBride, Mrs. Hautonville, Miss Pauline, Mr. John Sefton, Mr. Brunton, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Anderton, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Ward. After a short time the price of admission was reduced to twenty-five cents to all parts of the house. It did not last long.

Miss Clifton, Mr. and Mrs. Skerrit and Mr. E. S. Conner were some of the players who appeared at the National Theatre.

The inauguration ball of President Polk was held at the National Theatre on the night of March 4, 1845. On the following night, while the play of "Beauty and the Beast" was being performed with Mr. Burton as *Sir Aldgate Pump*, Charley Burke as *John Quill* and Mrs. Burke as *Selima*, fire broke out in the oil room in the back part of the building and the entire theatre was soon enveloped in flames. The edifice was entirely destroyed, the bare walls alone being left standing. Seven or eight dwelling houses and several stables were destroyed. Two companies of Alexandria firemen dragged their engines from that city, a distance of eight miles, in a very short time and arrived at the scene of the conflagration amid the cheers of an immense multitude. No lives were lost.

Mr. Burton moved his company to the Olympic Saloon, but the insufficient patronage bestowed upon the company compelled him to close the house after a few performances.

At a meeting of citizens and strangers held March 7, it was decided that a ball should be given at Carusi's Saloon on March 12, for the benefit of Mr. Burton and his company. Hon. James Buchanan, W. W. Seaton and a number of other prominent citizens and officers

of the Army and Navy were appointed a committee on arrangements. A resolution was adopted requesting the President and Mrs. Polk, ex-President and Mrs. Adams, ex-President and Mrs. Tyler, and Mrs. Madison to patronize this charitable undertaking by their presence.

After the burning of the National Theatre the city was without a theatre until Monday, November 30, 1846, when Mr. Kilmiste opened the Odeon, situated on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Four-and-One-Half Street. This little theatre could accommodate between three hundred and four hundred persons. The company consisted of G. F. Brown, Mrs. Mossop, Mr. Littel, Mr. Gibbon, George Jordan, Miss Dugard, Mr. Knowles, Miss Eliza Kilmiste, Mr. McGee, Miss Emma Kilmiste, Mr. D. Hayes and others. Various plays were given by the company and January 4, 1847, Mdle. Augusta, Mdle. Dimier and Mons. Frederick, noted dancers, appeared. On account of the extraordinary expense incurred the manager announced that he would be compelled to double the prices of admission, which had been twenty-five and fifty cents.

A local play entitled "Did You Ever Send Your Wife to Georgetown?" was presented. I do not know what particular benefit was derived from a man sending his wife to Georgetown, but the play appeared to be a great success. It was played several nights and was repeated at intervals for quite a time.

Charley Burke, the grandson of the eldest Jefferson and half brother of the present "Joe" Jefferson, appeared as *Dickory* in "The Spectre Bridegroom." In this play Mr. Nicodemus started to Aldwinkle Hall to marry Miss Aldwinkle but on the way there had an apoplectic fit and died. His cousin, also named Nicodemus, then went to Aldwinkle Hall to notify Mr. Ald-



winkle of the death of his cousin. He arrived late and being mistaken, on account of his close resemblance to his cousin, for the one expected did not have an opportunity to explain matters. Dickory, who had been at the half-way house, had seen the dead body of Mr. Nicodemus and reported his death to Mr. Aldwinkle, who would not believe him. He thought that Dickory had been drinking, and told him that Mr. Nicodemus had arrived and was in the next room eating and drinking and making love to his daughter. Dickory reiterated his statment that he had seen the dead body of Mr. Nicodemus and that it must be his ghost that had arrived.

The only time that I saw Charley Burke was in the character of *Dickory*, and although it has been many years since then I have never forgotten his appearance when he came on the stage after he had seen *Mr. Nicodemus*, whom he took to be the ghost of the dead man. His red hair stood on end, his face wore a look of terror and his hand, in which he held a candle was shaking like an aspen leaf. *Mr. Nicodemus* was dressed in sombre black and his funeral air, and tone of voice soon made all of the people at Aldwinkle Hall think that he was really a ghost. I have also remembered the reply and tone of voice of *Mr. Nicodemus* to *Miss Georgiana Aldwinkle* when she asked him if she could help him to some cold huckleberry pudding: "I never eat cold huckleberry pudding."

Mr. Burke also played "The Irish Tutor," "Catching an Heiress," "Grandfather Whitehead" and other plays.

Mdlle. Malvini, a celebrated danseuse, appeared for a number of nights, and Mr. John Sefton appeared March 25, as *Mr. Golightly* in "Lend Me Five Shill-

ings." The Odeon closed April 10, 1847, with a benefit to the stock company.

Messrs. G. F. Brown and H. F. Nichols leased a large new and commodious brick building on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue near Four-and-One-Half Street and fitted it up as a theatre to accommodate one thousand auditors and called it the Adelphi. It was afterwards Young's coach-making establishment. It was opened December 20, 1847, with a stock company, of which Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Herbert, Mrs. H. F. Nichols, Mrs. Hantonville and the proprietors were members. On the opening night "The Honeymoon" was given with Mrs. Nichols as *Juliana*. "The Stranger," "Romeo and Juliet," and other well-known plays were performed.

Mr. Kilmiste opened the Olympic Saloon with "The Model Artists" but it soon closed. Mr. C. Jenkins then opened it with a minstrel troupe and reduced the prices of admission to twenty-five and twelve and one-half cents.

During the early part of 1848 the performances at the Adelphi were given by the stock company. February 16, the Yankee comedian, J. S. Silsbee, began an engagement of four nights.

Mr. and Miss Logan played a week's engagement in "The Hunchback," "Lady of Lyons" and "The Honeymoon."

Monday evening, February 28, 1848, Miss Julia Dean, the talented young actress, and Mr. Dean, the popular tragedian, made their first appearance in Washington in "Evadne; or, The Statues." Miss Dean also performed "Lucretia Borgia," "The Wrecker's Daughter," "The Wife," "Love's Sacrifice," "Romeo and Juliet," etc. Miss Dean's personations of the most arduous tragic characters were such as to

elicit general commendation, not only from the press, but from the most competent judges of theatrical representations.

A complimentary benefit was given to Miss Dean on Wednesday, March 15, by prominent citizens of the city, on which occasion the company volunteered their services and the managers surrendered the entire control of the house to the committee on arrangements. The play was "The Hunchback" and the house was filled to overflowing.

Mr. E. S. Conner, Barney Williams, the Irish comedian, Geo. Vandenhoff, Miss H. Fanning Read, Mr. De Bar and Mr. Booth were the next performers, and the season closed May 6 with a complimentary benefit to the managers.

Wednesday, June 7, 1848, the Adelphi was again opened with the great Operatic Troupe, consisting of Mrs. Seguin, Mr. W. H. Reeves and Mr. Seguin assisted by Mr. Gardner, Miss Lichstenstin, Mr. Sauer and others. The opera was "Maritana." "The Bohemian Girl," "Fra Diavolo," "Elixir of Love," "Norma" and "La Somnambula" were also given to large houses and generous applause.

The regular fall and winter season opened November 15, with the play of "The Hunchback" by a strengthened stock company.

Monday, December 11, Mr. and Mrs. Farren appeared in "The Hunchback," and during their engagement performed many pieces. Mrs. Farren's impersonation of the parts of *Julia* in "The Hunchback," *Marianna* in "The Wife," and *Juliet* in "Romeo and Juliet" were masterly efforts.

Mr. Buckley opened the Olympic, Tuesday, January 18, 1848, with a stock company. It remained open about two months, during which time the management



changed twice. Those who played there were Mr. Moorehouse, Mrs. J. B. Booth, Mrs. George Jones, Mr. Booth and Elder Adams.

During the season at the Adelphi which closed April 16, 1849, the principal performers were Julia Dean, Charley Burke, Mr. Bellamy, Miss Kate Horn and Mrs. A. Drake. The Danseuse Viennoises, forty-eight in number, under the direction of Mad. Josephine Weiss, gave two performances. The Adelphi was reopened Monday evening, May 28, 1849, by Hamm & Owens, managers of the Holliday Street Theatre and Baltimore Museum, Baltimore, with the Astor Place Opera Troupe consisting of Signorina Amalia Patti, Signora Lietti Rossi, Signor Mona, Signor Bote, Signor Patti, Signor Parozzi, Signor Piemontese, Signor Rossi Corsi, Signor Sanquerico, with full chorus and orchestra. They sang "Il Barbierre Di Seviglia," "Chiari Di Rosenberg," "Ernani" and "Cinderella."

Miss Gannon, John E. Owens and Mr. Booth also appeared and the season closed June 9.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 27, 28 and 29, the Nightingale Ethiopian Serenaders, Messrs. H. K. Johnson, M. W. White, W. H. Morgan, George Kunkel and Harry Lehr, under the management of Geo. W. Harvey, gave concerts at the Adelphi.

The fall and winter season of 1849-50 began November 19, the theatre being under the management of Cartlitch and Brown.

During January, February, March, April and May, 1850, J. P. Adams, W. Marshall, the young American tragedian, Mr. and Mrs. Barny Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pitt, Mdle. Rosa Jacques, Charley Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Farren, H. J. Seymour, Mr. Booth, Mr. Hudson, Sam Glenn, Julia Dean, Anna Cruise, John E. Owens and Charlotte Cushman appeared in various plays.

Miss Cushman made her first appearance in Washington Wednesday, May 1, 1850, in her celebrated character of *Meg Merriles* in "Guy Mannering." High as the public expectation had been raised by the reports of her acting elsewhere it was not disappointed, and at the close of the performance this truly great actress was called before the curtain to receive a double manifestation of public applause. She played *Lady Macbeth* the next night. In the dagger scene she absolutely electrified the audience; the tone, the expression of face, the whole manner, was so peculiarly fine that the applause was loud and long-continued.

She also played *Mrs. Haller* in "The Stranger," and *Juliana* in "The Honeymoon." The season closed May 17, with Julia Dean as *Julia* in "The Hunchback." The theatre as again opened June 5, with Kate and Ellen Bateman, aged four and six years, in "Richard, the Third." There was a short summer season and the regular season opened October 21. During this season Mrs. Flynn, J. H. Taylor, Mr. Booth, Joseph Proctor, Mr. Chanfrau, who appeared as *Mose* in "A Glance at New York," Mr. J. Seymour, Mrs. Mossop and Miss Fanny Wallack were the principal performers. Miss Wallack was a native of Washington and her engagement was most successful. Besides *Juliet*, *Margaret Elmore* in "Love's Sacrifice," and *Pauline* in "The Lady of Lyons," she played "Hamlet" for her benefit, and rendered the part with so much truth and delicacy that she was rapturously called for when the curtain dropped. Her reading throughout reflected the highest credit on her judgment and capacity.

November 8, 1850, Edwin Booth, then a youth of sixteen years of age, made his first appearance in Washington as *Hemeya* to his father's *Pescara* in Shield's tragedy of "The Apostate." He played the character

in a very creditable manner, giving ample evidence that the mantle of the father would fall upon the son.

In 1844, a new star appeared in the dramatic firmament which, increasing in brilliancy, soon outshone all others in the constellation and spread its rays all over Europe. This star became known as "The Swedish Nightingale," and the most eminent composers pronounced her the musical miracle of the age. Moscheles said she had "truly enchanted him." Lablache declared that "every note was like a pearl." Mendelssohn wrote that she was the first artist that "united in the same degree natural gifts, study and depth of feeling," the combination of the three never existing before. She made her début in opera in Stockholm in 1838, when eighteen years of age, but in 1841 left the stage and went to Paris, where she studied under Manuel Garcia, reappearing on the stage in Berlin in 1844. She appeared in opera in Her Majesty's Theatre, London, May 4, 1847, and the critic Henry F. Chorley wrote that "the town" sacred and profane went mad about her. The Lind mania was epidemic everywhere in Europe during the year 1848, and March 18, 1849, she made her last appearance on the operatic stage as *Alice* in "Robert, Le Diable." Her fame had spread to the new world, and P. T. Barnum sent an agent to Europe to make an engagement with her for a series of concerts to be given in the principal cities of the United States. A contract was signed with Jenny Lind at Lubeck, Germany, January 9, 1850, by which she was to receive \$1,000 each for one hundred concerts. The contract was closed at the end of the ninety-third concert. In June, 1851, the New York *Tribune* stated that it had Mr. Barnum's authority for saying that there had been no unfriendly difference whatever between himself and Miss Lind and the reason for terminating

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the engagement was his desire to visit Europe in the *North America*; in proof of which the following note was published for Miss Lind:

TO P. T. BARNUM—*My Dear Sir*: I accept your proposition to close our contract to night, at the end of the 93d concert, on condition of my paying you \$7,000, in addition to the sum I forfeit under the conditions of not finishing the engagement at the end of 100 concerts. JENNY LIND.

Phil., June 9, 1851.

Miss Lind arrived at New York, September 1, 1850. Thousands of people covered the shipping and piers and other thousands congregated on the wharf at Canal Street to see her land. Triumphal arches were erected bearing the legends "Welcome Jenny Lind" and "Welcome to America." Twenty thousand persons surrounded her hotel and she appeared and gracefully bowed in response to the great outburst of applause which greeted her. At night she was serenaded by two hundred members of the Musical Fund Society escorted by three hundred firemen in red shirts and bearing lighted torches.

The desire to see and hear this queen of song was so great that very large prices were paid for seats and the receipts were so large that Mr. Barnum gave Miss Lind a large portion of the profits in addition to the \$1,000 per night. From her portion of the receipts for the first two nights in New York she gave \$10,000 in charity. During her stay in the United States she gave away over \$50,000 in charity.

The excitement over the "Swedish Nightingale" spread more rapidly over this country than in the old world.

Washington had no hall sufficiently large to accommodate the large crowds which were expected to attend

the concerts of the great and unrivalled songstress when she should come to this city. Messrs. Willard and Reeside took immediate measures to provide one. They removed the ruins of the old National Theatre and erected a large hall on the site. A commission consisting of Robert Mills, architect, Joel Downer and James King, builders, made a thorough examination of the building and certified that every part of it was sufficiently strong to sustain with safety the largest audience that could possibly be accommodated on its floors. The building was called National Hall and would seat 3,500 persons.

Two concerts were announced, one to take place on Monday, December 16, and the other Wednesday, December 18. The prices of seats were fixed at seven dollars, five dollars and four dollars.

In addition to Jenny Lind there were Signor Belleti, tenor, Joseph Burke violinist, and Messrs. Kyle and Seide, performers on the flute. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Benedict, and the whole Germania Musical Society took part in the concerts.

Jenny Lind arrived in this city from Baltimore, Sunday evening, December 15, and was quietly driven to her lodgings, which was in striking contrast with her arrival in other cities, where people ran after her carriage and indulged in boisterous demonstrations. The following day, in company with Messrs. Barnum, Belleti, Benedict and Reeside, she called on President Fillmore and, attended by the President, visited the various apartments of the White House. She went to the Senate Chamber and was an attentive listener to the debates then going on. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives courteously tendered to her the use of their official chambers, but owing to the dampness of the passages in the Capitol

she was afraid her voice would be affected and left the building without visiting the House. She went to the U. S. Supreme Court room, and had the gratification of listening to Mr. Clay while he was arguing a cause. She expressed great admiration for Mr. Clay, particularly his noble sentiment "I would rather be right than be President."

At noon on the 17th, Miss Lind, by invitation of Mr. Washington, embarked in a special steamer, attended by Mr. Washington himself, Messrs. Barnum, Belletti, Benedict and several ladies and gentlemen, invited guests and proceeded to Mount Vernon, where the party spent some time in viewing the many interesting and impressive memorials of the consecrated spot.

The first concert was given as announced on Monday, December 16, 1850, and was attended by the largest, most brilliant and certainly the most gratified audience which had ever assembled at any public entertainment in this city. Every part of the spacious hall was occupied by eager auditors. Among those present were the President of the United States and family, the President of the Senate, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Mr. Crittenden, Major-General Scott, Justices of the U. S. Supreme Court and many senators and representatives.

The good feeling of the audience towards the president, Mr. Webster, Mr. Clay, General Scott and Mr. Crittenden was manifested in the most marked and cordial manner as these distinguished visitors entered the hall.

The audience began to assemble as early as six o'clock, and when at last the appearance of Miss Lind gave to reality the place of pent-up expectation she was greeted with a burst of applause which fairly shook the stout walls of the building. Silence was at once restored and as the beautiful strains of the *Casta Diva*



came clear and liquid from the lips of this queen of song a death-like stillness prevailed. When she finished there was a torrent of applause which was repeated again and again.

Her next was a trio for voice and two flutes, called "Camp of Silesia," composed expressly for Miss Lind. The flutes were played by Messrs. Kyle and Seide.

In this piece she imitated and surpassed the most exquisite tones of the flute by her finer cadence. Nothing could excel the brilliancy of this performance and it fairly set the audience wild.

The bird song and the echo song were given with marvelous accuracy and a sweetness of melody perfectly unimaginal until heard.

At her second concert she sang for the first time in America the national song of "Hail Columbia," to which her unrivalled voice, accompanied by Signor Benedict's powerful and admirable orchestra, gave the highest effect.

It was supposed that the great crowd of high and humble which flocked to the first concert, notwithstanding the unheard of, but necessary, prices was moved chiefly by curiosity to hear one so renowned in song and who had won so many hearts by her goodness. But, when a greater crowd filled the immense hall a second time and at the same prices, it could be justly ascribed to but one cause, and that one the unequalled attractions of the artiste combined with high esteem for the woman.

Her matchless purity of style, surpassing vocal powers, and excellence of private character had charmed the audiences and all Washington paid tribute to Jenny Lind.

## APPENDIX.





## OFFICERS.

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OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD  
JANUARY 12, 1903.

<i>President</i> .....	JOHN A. KASSON.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i> .....	{ AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD, ALEXANDER B. HAGNER.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	WILLIAM A. MEARNES.
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	MARY STEVENS BEALL.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	MICHAEL I. WELLER.
<i>Curator</i> .....	JAMES F. HOOD.
<i>Chronicler</i> .....	WILHELMUS B. BRYAN.
	1904 { JOHN B. LARNER, HUGH T. TAGGART.
<i>Managers classified ac-</i>	1905 { LEWIS J. DAVIS,
<i>cording to expira-</i>	{ J. ORMOND WILSON.
<i>tion of term of ser-</i>	1906 { W J MCGEE,
<i>vice</i> .....	{ MARCUS BAKER.
	1907 { ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON,
	{ TALLMADGE A. LAMBERT.

## COMMITTEES.

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### *On Communications.*

W. B. BRYAN,	MARCUS BAKER,
W J MCGEE,	M. I. WELLER,
JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN.	

### *On Membership.*

A. B. HAGNER,	A. R. SPOFFORD,
M. I. WELLER,	MARCUS BAKER,
W. B. BRYAN.	

### *On Publication.*

JOHN B. LARNER,	MARCUS BAKER,
W J MCGEE,	W. B. BRYAN,
MARY STEVENS BEALL,	J. HENLEY SMITH.

### *On Building.*

LEWIS J. DAVIS,	J. ORMOND WILSON,
JAMES F. HOOD,	WESTON FLINT.

### *On Exchange.*

JAMES F. HOOD,	T. A. LAMBERT,
MRS. MARY STEVENS BEALL.	

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JANUARY 12, 1903.

Abert, William Stone,	1520 K St.
Addison, Mrs. Clare G.,	1765 N St.
Anderson, Thomas H.,	City Hall.
Arms, John Taylor,	1408 M St.
Babson, J. W.,	108 Eleventh St., S. E.
Baker, Frank,	1728 Columbia Road.
Baker, John A.,	1819 H St.
Baker, *Marcus,	1905 Sixteenth St.
Ballinger, Mrs. Madison A.,	Riggs House.
Barnard, Jcb,	1306 Rhode Island Ave.
Beall, Mrs. Mary Stevens,	1643 Thirty-second St.
Bell, Charles James,	1327 Connecticut Ave.
Bingham, Edward F.,	1907 H St.
Blagden, Thomas,	"Argyle," Fourteenth St. ext.
Blair, Henry P.,	Columbian Building.
Blair, John S.,	1416 F St.
Blair, Montgomery,	344 D St.
Blount, Henry Fitch,	"The Oaks," 3101 U St.
Bowie, W. W.,	803 A St., S. E.
Bradley, Charles S.,	1722 N St.
Brice, Arthur T.,	1711 M St.
Britton, Alexander,	1419 F St.
Brown, Glenn,	918 F St.
Browne, Aldis B.,	1528 P St.
Bryan, Joseph H.,	818 Seventeenth St.
Bryan, Wilhelmus Bogart,	1330 Eighteenth St.
Bukey, Mrs. Jean Magruder,	404 M St.
Bulkley, Barry,	Thé Marlborough.
Bundy, Charles S.,	344 D St.
Byington, Miss Marie E.,	1468 Rhode Island Ave.
Cammack, John,	3553 Brightwood Ave.
Carpenter, Frank G.,	1318 Vermont Ave.



Chilton, Robert S., Jr.,	822 Eighteenth St.
Clagett, Charles W.,	422 Fifth St.
Clark, Allen C.,	605 F St.
Clark, Appleton P., Jr.,	241 Delaware Ave., N. E.
Clarke, Daniel B.,	1422 Massachusetts Ave.
Clephane, Walter C.,	1747 Corcoran St.
Cook, George Wythe,	3 Thomas Circle.
Corning, John Herbert,	520 Thirteenth St.
Cox, William Van Zandt,	Brightwood, D. C.
Cruikshank, Thomas Antisell,	1227 Thirty-first St.
Cull, Judson T.,	344 D St.
Curtis, William Eleroy,	1801 Connecticut Ave.
Cutter, Edwin C.,	1408 G St.
Cutts, James Madison,	534 Twentieth St.
Davenport, Rich'd Graham, U.S.N.,	1729 G St.
Davidge, Walter D.,	1624 H St.
Davidson, H. Bradley,	1338 F St.
Davis, Eldred G.,	2211 R St.
Davis, Lewis J.,	1411 Massachusetts Ave.
DeCaindry, William A.,	914 Farragut Square.
Deeble, W. Riley,	2020 P St.
Dennis, William Henry,	416 Fifth St.
Dent, Louis A.,	1516 Ninth St.
Detwiler, Frederick M.,	504 I St.
Dixon, William Suel, U.S.N.,	1336 Nineteenth St.
Duncanson, Charles C.,	319 Ninth St.
Dutton, Robert W.,	District Building.
Duvall, Andrew B.,	1831 M St.
Eaton, George G.,	1324 South Capitol St.
Edson, John Joy,	1324 Sixteenth St.
Ellicott, Eugene,	2031 Locust St., Phila., Pa.
Fardon, Abram P.,	1918 I St.
Ffoulke, Charles Mather,	2013 Massachusetts Ave.
Fletcher, Miss Alice Cunningham,	214 First St., S. E.
Fletcher, Robert,	The Portland.
Flint, Weston,	The Westover.

Foulke, William D.,	1266 New Hampshire Ave.
Fraser, Daniel,	1626 P St.
Fulton, Creed M.,	319 Four-and-a-half St.
Gale, Thomas M.,	1314 L St.
Gallaudet, Edward Miner,	Kendall Green.
Gilkey, Miss Malina A.,	16 Fifth St., S. E.
Glover, Charles C.,	20 Lafayette Square.
Gordon, J. Holdsworth,	3028 Q St.
Gordon, William A.,	6 Cooke Place.
Gorham, George C.,	1763 Q St.
Granger, John Tileston,	1838 Connecticut Ave.
Grosvenor, Gilbert H.,	1328 Eighteenth St.
Gurley, William Brooks,	1335 F St.
Hagner, Alexander Burton,	1818 H St.
Handy, Charles W.,	610 Thirteenth St.
Harper, Albert,	426 Fifth St.
Harries, George H.,	Fourteenth & E. Capitol Sts.
Harvey, Frederick L.,	622 F St.
Hearst, Mrs. Phebe Apperson,	1400 New Hampshire Ave.
Heaton, Augustus George,	1618 Seventeenth St.
Hemphill, John J.,	2108 Bancroft Place.
Henderson, John B., Jr.,	Sixteenth and Florida Ave.
Henning, George C.,	Traders' National Bank.
Henry, J. William,	3241 N St.
Hibbs, William B.,	1427 F St.
Hickling, D. Percy,	232 Third St.
Hieston, Walter,	1420 F St.
Hill, William Corcoran,	1724 H St.
Hood, James Franklin,	1017 O St.
Hornblower, Joseph C.,	1509 H St.
Howard, George H.,	1914 N St.
Howison, Robert R.,	Fredericksburg, Va.
Hoxie, Mrs. Vinnie Ream,	1632 K St.
Hume, Frank,	1235 Massachusetts Ave.
Hungerford, William A.,	<i>Evening Star Building.</i>
Hutcheson, David,	Library of Congress.
Hutchins, Stilson,	1603 Massachusetts Ave.
Hyde, Thomas,	1537 Twenty-eighth St.

Jackson, Miss Cordelia,	3014 Irving Place.
Johnson, H. L. E.,	1821 Jefferson Place.
Johnston, Miss Elizabeth Bryant,	1320 Florida Ave.
Johnston, James M.,	1628 K St.
Jones, Miss Fanny Lee,	Louise Home.
Jones, Thomas R.,	National Safe Deposit Co.
Kasson, John Adam,	1726 I St.
Kauffmann, Samuel Hay,	1421 Massachusetts Ave.
Kibbey, Miss Bessie J.,	2025 Massachusetts Ave.
Kingsman, Richard,	711 East Capitol St.
Kober, George M.,	1819 Q St.
Lambert, Tallmadge A.,	1219 Massachusetts Ave.
Larcombe, John S.,	1815 H St.
Larner, John Bell,	1335 F St.
Larner, Noble Danforth,	918 F St.
Lee, Blair,	344 D St.
Leighton, Benjamin F.,	416 Fifth St.
Leiter, Levi Zeigler,	1500 New Hampshire Ave.
Lenman, Miss Isobel Hunter,	1100 Twelfth St.
Lóoker, Henry B.,	3100 Newark St., Cleveland Park, D. C.
Lothrop, Alvin Mason,	Cor. Eleventh and F Sts.
Lowndes, James,	1707 Rhode Island Ave.
McGee, W J,	Bur. Amer. Ethnology.
McGuire, Frederick Bauders,	1333 Connecticut Ave.
McKee, David R.,	1753 Rhode Island Ave.
McKenney, F. D.,	1317 F St.
McKinley, J. William,	509 Seventh St.
McLanahan, G. William,	1602 Twenty-first St.
McLeran, John E.,	45 Wesley Heights.
Macfarland, Henry B. F.,	District Building.
Mackall, Miss S. Somervell,	3040 Dumbarton Ave.
Magruder, G. Lloyd,	815 Vermont Ave.
Magruder, John H.,	1726 Twenty-first St.
Mann, Miss Mary Elizabeth,	918 F St.
Marshall, James Rush,	1509 H St.



Mason, Otis Tufton,	1751 P St.
Mattingly, William F.,	1616 H St.
Mearns, William A.,	1315 F St.
Meloy, William A.,	118 C St.
Merritt, William E. H.,	1008 F St.
Miller, J. Barton,	1325 Thirty-second St.
Miller, Miss Virginia,	1729 P St.
Moore, Charles,	2013 R St.
Moore, Frederic Lawrence,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Moore, General John, U.S.A.,	930 Sixteenth St.
Moore, Mrs. Virginia Campbell,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Morgan, James Dudley,	919 Fifteenth St.
Morris, Martin F.,	1314 Massachusetts Ave.
Morris, Miss Maud Burr,	1603 Nineteenth St.
Morrison, Mrs. Isabella H.,	811 Thirteenth St.
Mosher, Mrs. James,	1717 I St.
Moss, George W.,	1411 G St.
Munn, Henry B.,	1334 R St.
Mussey, Mrs. Ellen S.,	470 Louisiana Ave.
Newcomb, Simon, U.S.N.,	1620 P St.
Newton, Watson J.,	610 Thirteenth St.
Norris, James L.,	501 F St.
Noyes, Crosby S.,	Office <i>Evening Star</i> .
Noyes, Theodore Williams,	1730 New Hampshire Ave.
Noyes, Thomas C.,	Office <i>Evening Star</i> .
O'Neil, James,	509 Seventh St.
Osborne, John Ball,	2116 Connecticut Ave.
Owen, Frederick D.,	3 Grant Place.
Owen, Owen,	423 Eleventh St.
Palmer, Aulick,	1401 Staughton St.
Parker, E. Southard,	Nat. Metropolitan Bank.
Parker, John C.,	617 and 619 Seventh St.
Parris, Albion K.,	3022 P St.
Payne, James G.,	2112 Massachusetts Ave.
Pellew, Henry E.,	1637 Massachusetts Ave.
Pelz, Paul J.,	2011 F St.

Pentland, Andrew W.,	1330 Eighteenth St.
Perry, R. Ross,	344 D St.
Petty, James S.,	3331 O St.
Phillips, Robert A.,	1406 G St.
Pickford, Thomas H.,	120 Maryland Ave., N. E.
Pinchot, Gifford,	Department of Agriculture.
Poor, John Caldwell,	1724 Connecticut Ave.
Ramsay, Francis M., U.S.N.,	1921 N St.
Rheem, Clarence B.,	1612 S St.
Rhees, William J.,	Smithsonian Institution.
Richardson, Mrs. Charles W.,	1102 L St.
Richardson, Francis Asbury,	1308 Vermont Ave.
Riggs, E. Francis,	1311 Massachusetts Ave.
Rittenhouse, David,	1607 Twenty-eighth St.
Rives, Mrs. Jeannie Tree,	1818 Jefferson Place.
Robbins, James,	1314 Vermont Ave.
Rudolph, Cuno H.,	1332 New York Ave.
Satterlee, Rt. Rev. Henry Yates,	1407 Massachusetts Ave.
Saul, John A.,	344 D St.
Saunders, William H.,	1407 F St.
Shand, Miles,	Department of State.
Shir-Cliffe, William H.,	War Department.
Shoemaker, Louis P.,	920 F St.
Shuey, Theodore F.,	2127 California Ave.
Simmons, George,	2549 Eleventh St.
Simpson, Henry K.,	326 Pennsylvania Ave., S. E.
Simpson, John Crayke,	Govt. Insane Asylum.
Sloan, Charles G.,	1407 G St.
Small, John H., Jr.,	Cor. Fourteenth and G Sts.
Smith, J. Henley,	1224 Connecticut Ave.
Smith, Thomas W.,	616 East Capitol St.
Smith, William R.,	Supt. Nat. Botanic Garden.
Sowers, Z. T.,	1320 New York Ave.
Spofford, Ainsworth Rand,	1621 Massachusetts Ave.
Sturtevant, Charles L.,	928 F St.
Sunderland, David O.,	618 Twelfth St.
Swartzell, G. W. F.,	916 F St.
Sylvester, Richard,	Hdqrs. Met. Police.

Taggart, Hugh T.,	3249 N St.
Thomas, Edward H.,	916 F St.
Thompson, W. B.,	1419 F St.
Thorn, Charles G.,	1821 Baltimore St.
Tindall, William,	2103 California Ave.
Townsend, George Alfred,	229 First St., N. E.
Truesdell, George,	1403 F St.
Turpin, William B.,	1429 New York Ave.
Van Wickle, William P.,	1757 Q St.
Warner, Brainard Henry,	916 F St.
Webb, John Sidney,	1619 Massachusetts Ave.
Webster, Harrie, U.S.N.,	W. R. Trigg Co., Richmond, Va.
Weller, Michael I.,	602 F St.
West, Henry Litchfield,	1364 Harvard St.
White, Charles E.,	621 Third St.
Whitney, Rev. John D.,	Georgetown University.
Whittemore, Williams Clark,	1526 New Hampshire Ave.
Wight, John B.,	1767 Q St.
Willard, Henry A.,	1333 K St.
Williams, Charles P.,	1675 Thirty-first St.
Williams, W. Mosby,	416 Fifth St.
Wilson, Albert A.,	2000 G St.
Wilson, James Ormond,	1439 Massachusetts Ave.
Wilson, Jesse B.,	Lincoln National Bank.
Wilson, Jesse H.,	2914 P St.
Winship, Henry C.,	1079 Thirty-first St.
Wolf, Simon,	1756 Q St.
Woodhull, M. Van Zandt, U.S.A.,	2033 G St.
Woodward, Frederick E.,	Eleventh & F Sts.
Woodward, S. Walter,	2015 Wyoming Ave.
Woodward, Thomas P.,	507 E St.
Wright, Mrs. Addie Lloyd,	225 Thirteenth St., S. W.
Wyman, Walter,	Hotel Richmond.
Zevely, Douglass,	1525 O St.



COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO THE COLUMBIA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

(Continuation from Page 14, Vol. 5.)

1902.

- Jan. 6. The Making of a Plan for the City of Washington.  
Glenn Brown. Published in this volume.  
L'Enfant and the Improvement of Washington.  
Charles Moore. Published in this volume.
- Feb. 10. Recollections of a Washington Newspaper Correspondent. Francis A. Richardson. Published in this volume.  
Early Literature of the District of Columbia. Ainsworth R. Spofford. Published in this volume.
- Mar. 10. The Beginnings of Government in the District of Columbia. Wilhelmus B. Bryan. Published in this volume.
- Apr. 14. Old Residences and Family History in the City Hall Neighborhood. Douglass Zevely. Published in this volume.
- May 12. The Bradley Family and the Times in Which They Lived. Charles S. Bradley. Published in this volume.  
A History of the City Post-Office. Madison Davis. Published in this volume.
- Nov. 10. A History of the Seal of the Columbia Historical Society. Elizabeth Bryant Johnston. Published in this volume.  
The Theatres of Washington from 1835 to 1850.  
A. I. Mudd. Published in this volume.
- Dec. 8. The White House, its History and its Restoration. Charles Moore. Published in *The Century Magazine* April, 1903.  
"London records of Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey in 1688," from an encyclopædia of that date. Read by Augustus G. Heaton.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

### EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

#### *57th meeting.*

*January 6, 1902.*

The first communication of the evening was from Mr. Glenn Brown on "The Making of a Plan for the City of Washington" and was handsomely illustrated by lantern slides. The second was by Mr. Charles Moore on "L'Enfant and the Improvement of Washington." Dr. James Dudley Morgan added a brief tribute to the genius and ability of the brilliant French engineer. Vice-President Spofford announced that, in response to numerous requests, the Board of Managers had changed the regular meeting night of the Society from the first to the second Monday in the month, the change to take effect in February. Present about 125 members and guests; when the latter had withdrawn the Society listened to the reports of its officers and held its annual election.

#### *58th meeting.*

*February 10, 1902.*

Mr. Francis A. Richardson presented the first communication entitled "Recollections of a Washington Newspaper Correspondent"; Dr. Ainsworth R. Spofford the second; its theme, "Early Literature of the District of Columbia." About 100 members and guests present.

#### *Special meeting.*

*February 22, 1902.*

The Society, having decided in a meeting of its Governing Board that the time was ripe for a social conference at which the members might have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other, determined upon a Washington Birthday celebration. This seemed peculiarly appropriate since our first President, Dr. Joseph M. Toner, of gracious memory, had for years observed this custom, inviting the members of this Society, after its organization to meet the

members of the Washington National Monument Association of which he was also an officer. Our own celebration taking the form of a Special Meeting followed by a luncheon, was held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham, on Saturday afternoon, from two to four o'clock. The opening address was by President Kasson and was followed by impromptu speeches by Mr. Lewis J. Davis, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements; Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, Vice-President Hagner, who displayed some interesting Washington relics, portraits, etc.; Commissioner Macfarland, Vice-President Spofford, Col. Cutts and Corresponding Secretary Weller. These speeches—historical, patriotic, humorous and reminiscient—were all in the happiest vein. During the luncheon a stringed band contributed appropriate music.

*59th meeting.*

*March 10, 1902.*

Mr. W. B. Bryan read the communication of the evening entitled "The Beginnings of Government in the District of Columbia." The paper was discussed by Messrs. Tindall, Bundy, Weller and Hagner. In the historical exhibit forming the second part of the programme, Curator James F. Hood exhibited a lithograph in colors of the Capitol and grounds about it, as they appeared in 1848; Dr. J. Dudley Morgan, photograph of Duddington, with relics from the mansion; Mr. Allen C. Clark, a photograph of *The Gadsby*, formerly *The Franklin*, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, 21st and F Streets, where Chief Justice Marshall and other members of the Supreme Court boarded; also the residence of Chief Justice Fuller, formerly of Tench Ringgold, Esq., 1801 F Street; Mr. John B. Larner, a photograph of the S. W. corner of 14th and F Streets as it was in November, 1865; and Mr. M. I. Weller, a rare map of the city, dated 1857. Present about 100 members and guests.

*60th meeting.*

*April 14, 1902.*

Mr. Douglass Zevely's communication entitled "Old Residences and Family History in the City Hall Neighborhood," was discussed by Messrs. Bryan and Hagner, while Mr. Lewis



J. Davis added a few words about the neighborhood of 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Dr. Tindall spoke briefly of a map in the possession of the District Commissioners, showing the metes and bounds of the land owned by the original proprietors. Mr. Zevely exhibited a photograph of Mr. W. W. Birth and a water-color sketch of his grocery store at the corner of 3d Street and Indiana Avenue. Major Henry B. Looker exhibited papers relating to the municipality of Georgetown, among them the original contract between the Town Council and Thomas Moore for the construction of "the causeway" in 1805; with correspondence between the authorities of Georgetown and those of Alexandria as to the probable advantages and disadvantages of such a work; also the reproduction of a map by Nicholas King showing the original topography of the city in 1797. Present about 65 members and guests.

*61st meeting.**May 12, 1902.*

A resolution relative to the preservations by the Government of the valuable data contained in the "official records of the census of the United States from 1790 to 1890," having been offered by Vice-President Spofford before the Board of Managers and heartily approved of by them, on motion of Dr. Marcus Baker was read to the Society at large. Professor McGee moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Henry A. Willard, unanimously adopted by the Society. Mr. Charles S. Bradley presented a communication on "The Bradley Family and the Times in Which They Lived." Remarks by Mr. L. J. Davis. Mr. Madison Davis prepared the second paper of the evening which at his request was read by Mrs. Secretary Beall; it was entitled "A History of the City Post-Office." Present about 75 members and guests.

*62d meeting.**November 10, 1902.*

Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston contributed "A History of the Seal of the Society," a subject that was discussed by Mr. W. B. Bryan and Vice-President Hagner. The second communication, "The Theatres of Washington from 1835 to

1850'' was by Mr. A. I. Mudd and was discussed by Mrs. Simon Newcomb and Mr. M. I. Weller. Present about 75 members and guests.

*63d meeting.*

*December 8, 1902.*

''The White House, its History and its Restoration'' formed the theme of Mr. Charles Moore's communication and it was discussed by Mrs. Simon Newcomb, Miss Johnston and Messrs. Bryan, Weller, Moore, Blount and Hagner. Mr. A. G. Heaton read from an encyclopædia published in London in the seventeenth century, an account of Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey in 1688. Mr. Lewis J. Davis urged upon the members present the advisability of enlarging the membership of the Society that its work might be correspondingly enlarged and read pertinent extracts from the inaugural address of our first President, Dr. Joseph M. Tones. Present about 85 members and guests.

Of the above meetings the first five were held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham; the last two, at the Arlington while the first named hotel was closed on account of extensive alterations.

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COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY—REPORT OF  
THE TREASURER, 1902.

NOTE: Owing to the illness and absence from the city of Mr. William A. Mearns, Treasurer of the Society, no report was made.

## NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY, 1902.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The Recording Secretary respectfully submits this, the *Ninth Annual Report*, beginning with the 57th meeting, January 6, 1902, and ending with the 63d meeting on December 8, of the same year.

Although 21 persons have been elected to membership during this period, death has robbed the Society of 8 members, 7 have resigned and 5 have dropped out through other causes, making the total loss 20; thus giving us a membership of 251 at the end of the year.

The Society has held seven meetings, five in the banquet hall of the Shoreham and two, through the courtesy of Mr. Roessle, at the Arlington Hotel, while the Shoreham was closed for alterations. Eleven written and several unwritten communications have been presented, which were discussed by 24 persons. The average attendance has been 89; the largest, 125, at the January and the smallest, 65, at the April meeting. The Board of Managers has held thirteen meetings at which the average attendance has been 10; the smallest 5 and the largest 13.

Besides the above a *Special Meeting* was held on February 22, to commemorate Washington's Birthday. This was a daylight function and was heartily enjoyed by all who braved the inclemency of the weather to attend.

Volume 5 of the Records, published this year, contains 329 pages and 3 illustrations. By means of an appendix, the work of the Society was brought down to the end of the current year including the reports read at the 8th annual meeting and the results of the elections at the same.



In January of 1902 the Board of Managers changed the meeting night of the Society from the first to the second Monday in each month, the new rule going into operation in February.

The Society feels that it has earned the right to the support of all interested in the preservation of accurate historical data and desires to increase its membership. More members mean increased facilities for accomplishing those objects for which this Society was organized and a hastening of the time when it can have a home of its own where its constantly growing library may be available to all its members.

MARY STEVENS BEALL,  
*Recording Secretary.*

January 12, 1903.

## NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURATOR.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

I herewith present to you my *ninth annual report*.

One copy of Volume 5 of our publications was delivered to the Secretary for a new member of the Society who was entitled thereto, and one copy of our publication: "In Memoriam," was sent to Mrs. Henry L. West by vote of the Board of Managers. One copy of: "Washington in the Forbes Expedition" was sold at the schedule price, and a copy of Volume 2 was forwarded to the Secretary at her request for the Society's use.

In February, 1902, all the books, pamphlets, maps and other literary material relating to the District of Columbia, aggregating several hundred items, which were bequeathed to the Society by Dr. Samuel C. Busey, were turned over to me by his executor, and are now in my possession. A card catalogue, nearly completed, accompanied the bequest, but an enumeration of the items in detail would swell this report beyond reasonable bounds. I was therefore authorized, by vote of the Managers at their meeting in November last, to prepare a typewritten catalogue of the Society's library, including all its acquisitions from organization to the present, which may be published when the funds of the Society will warrant the expense. The catalogue is now in preparation.

Following is a list of accessions during the past year aside from the Busey Donation:

MAP of the City of Washington, showing the lines of the various properties at the division with the original proprietors in 1792. Colored. 23 x 30. 1884. (Presented by Mr. W. Mosby Williams.)

A number of invitation cards, ball programs, etc. (30 items.) (Presented by Mr. James O'Neil.)

SOUTHERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS. Nos. 1 to 6 of Vol. VI. 8°. 1902. (By exchange with the Association.)

IOWA MASONIC GRAND LODGE. Quarterly Bulletin. Nos. 1 to 5 of Vol. V. 8°. 1902. (By exchange with the Grand Lodge.)

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BULLETIN. Nos. 1 to 12 of Vol. VI. 4°. 1902. (By exchange with the Library.)

UNITED STATES PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. Monthly Catalogue. Nos. 83 to 94. 8°. (Presented by the Superintendent of Documents.)

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE. Nos. 1 to 4 of Vol. II. 8°. 1902. (By exchange with the W. Va. Hist. and Antiq. Soc.)

THE FREE LANCE. No. 137 of Vol. 17 (Jan. 7, 1902), and

THE PRESBYTERIAN STANDARD. No. 34 of Vol. 44 (August 20, 1902). 8°. (Presented by Rev. R. R. Howison.)

ANDREWS, G. C. The Story of Creation. 8°. (Presented by the Author.)

READER, F. S. Some Pioneer Families of Washington Co., Penn. (Presented by the Author.)

THE WASHINGTON HISTORIAN. No. 4 of Vol. II. 8°. 1902. (By exchange with the Washington State Hist. Soc.)

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Proceedings, Vol. 7, 1901-1902, and Thirteenth Biennial Report. 8°. (By exchange with the Society.)

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT. History of the Monument and of the Society. (Presented by the Society.)

All of which is respectfully submitted:

JAMES F. HOOD,  
*Curator.*

WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
January 12, 1903.



## REPORT OF THE CHRONICLER.

### PRINCIPAL LOCAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1902.

The Chronicler submitted the following report.

- Jan. 9. Washington City Reservoir in use.  
“ 15. Park Commission plans reported to the Senate.  
“ 29. First meeting of Trustees of Carnegie Institution.  
Feb. 5. Washington Railway and Electric Co. formed by  
merging the Metropolitan, Columbia and Great  
Falls Street Railroad Co.  
“ 7. Sale of the Foundry M. E. Church property, corner  
of 14th and G Sts., N. W.  
“ 24. Visit to the city of Prince Henry of Germany.  
“ 26. Cases of smallpox reported.  
Mar. 7. Census Bureau made permanent.  
Apr. 19. Awards in the 16th street extension case confirmed.  
“ 24. Rochambeau statue unveiled.  
May 21. Spanish War Memorial at Arlington unveiled.  
“ 23. Elijah Chapman hanged for murder of Ida Simms.  
“ 29. First caisson launched in the construction of the new  
steam railroad bridge over the Potomac.  
June 25. No. 22 Lafayette Square occupied by the President  
until November 6, during improvements in the  
White House.  
“ 26. Dr. F. A. Lane resigns as director of High Schools,  
and Percy M. Hughes appointed in his place.  
July 1. Provision for a personal tax law a part of the Dis-  
trict appropriation Bill.  
“ 5. Work in progress in building an electric road con-  
necting Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis.  
“ 9. Improvements begun at Washington Barracks, site  
of new War College.  
“ 10. Saturday declared to be a legal half holiday under  
the code.

- Aug. 12. Prevalence of typhoid fever.
- Sept. 12. Library of Congress opened on Sundays from 2 to 10 p. m.
- “ 20. Scarcity of coal experienced by all classes.
- “ 22. Electric line completed from Berwyn to Laurel, Md.
- “ 27. Committee appointed to receive subscriptions for a memorial to the late ex-Governor Shepherd.
- “ 29. Temple Baptist Church, 10th and N Streets, N. W., dedicated.
- Oct. 6. Encampment of the G. A. R. in session.
- “ 11. Ground broken for erection of hall by D. A. R.
- “ 13. Henry L. West appointed Commissioner in place of John W. Ross, deceased.
- “ 17. National Rifles disband as a military organization.
- “ 24. Change in the A.B. degree course Columbian University from four to three years.
- Nov. 13. District to rank with the states in the benefits of the Cecil Rhodes scholarship.
- “ 25. Ashley M. Gould appointed judge of the Supreme Court of the District, vice Andrew C. Bradley, deceased.
- “ 29. Morgan H. Beach appointed attorney for the District, vice Ashley M. Gould appointed judge of the Supreme Court of the District.
- Dec. 2. Work to be resumed to utilize the power of Great Falls.
- “ 5. Exhibition by Dr. Lorenz of his bloodless method of treating hip dislocation.
- “ 12. Plan for new municipal building selected.
- “ 16. Senate union railroad depot bill passed by House with amendments.
- “ 16. The *Evening Star* celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

## REMONSTRANCE OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONCERNING THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES CENSUS.

WHEREAS, The members of the Columbia Historical Society have learned with surprise and regret that it has been proposed in a bill now pending in Congress to destroy or to divide up among the States the original official Records of the Census of the United States from 1790 to 1890; therefore

*Resolved*, That we earnestly remonstrate against such a disposition of these valuable historical archives, because

1. They contain historical and biographical data not elsewhere to be found.

2. They furnish evidence of births, deaths and nativities in detail, not published in the volumes of the Census, except in aggregate figures—no individual names being printed.

3. They contain many specific facts of local resources, industries and productions in agriculture, manufactures, mining, etc., which are only tabulated in gross in the printed records.

4. They embrace more information regarding disease and mortality than the condensed statistics exhibit.

5. They are highly important as determining facts of personal residence, age or occupation at a given period of life, of vast numbers of the population of the United States.

6. They belong to the class of original documents illustrating the decennial progress of the nation in every part, which should be carefully preserved, as of permanent interest and value.

*Resolved*, That any partition among the States of these invaluable national Records would scatter them at remote distances, and would defeat the object of conserving them for public reference, under proper conditions, at the Capital of the nation.



*Resolved*, That since the only reason alleged for destroying or dividing these Records of the Census is the want of adequate space in our public buildings, we earnestly urge upon Congress an immediate provision for a fire-proof Hall of Records, to contain the Government Archives, a measure of pressing necessity and national importance, already too long delayed.

Offered by Vice-President Spofford, May 12, 1902, endorsed by Board of Managers and unanimously passed by the Society.

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#### NECROLOGY.

1902, May 4th.....	THOMAS WILSON.
1902, May 15th.....	ANDREW C. BRADLEY.
1902, May 31st.....	T. RITCHIE STONE.
1902, June 12th.....	WILLIAM GALT.
1902, June 25th.....	WALTER S. COX.
1902, July 29th.....	JOHN W. ROSS.
1902, September 12th.....	ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD.
1902, September 23d.....	JOHN W. POWELL.

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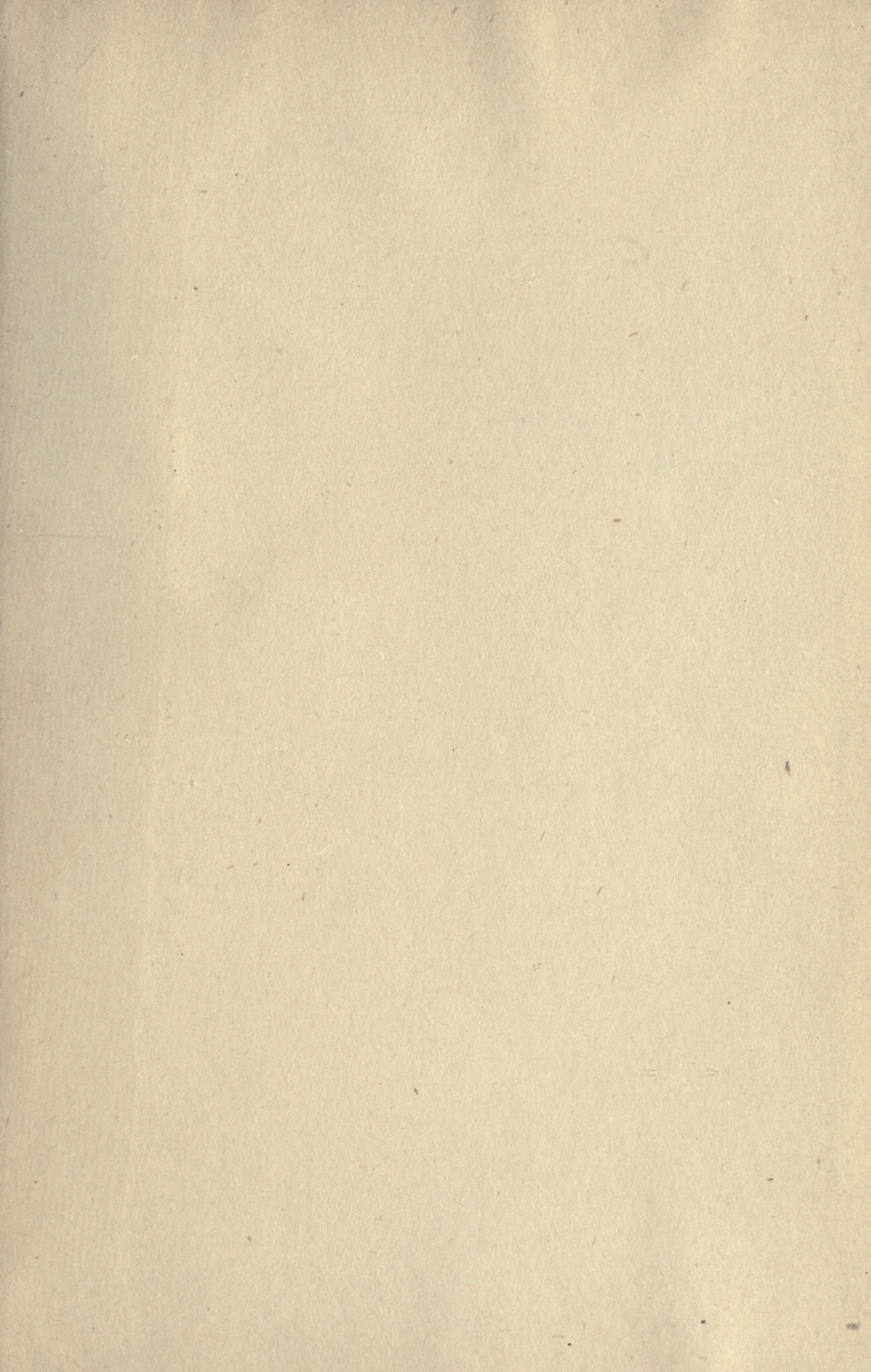
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